

June 3, 2013

The Honorable Senator Orrin Hatch  
104 Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Mike Lee  
316 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Orrin Hatch and Senator Mike Lee:

As Mayors of cities and towns throughout Utah, we ask that you continue your work toward comprehensive immigration reform. Our communities will face significant challenges unless substantial reform is enacted.

Utah's economy is diverse. We rely on a myriad of industries to remain successful. From technology to agriculture to tourism, there is not a single sector of our economy that is not affected by our nation's immigration policies.

We educate and train some of the top minds from around the globe in our colleges and universities. These students came to America to learn and would like to stay and contribute to our economy upon graduation. Unfortunately, once we hand them a degree, we send them back to their home country and force them to wait, often times close to a decade, to obtain the proper visa to live and work in the U.S. This makes absolutely no sense. We have a number of high-skill job-openings in the technology fields. We need these U.S. trained graduates to fill these positions.

Much of Utah is rural and depends on the agriculture economy to survive. Utah has farmers whose land has been in their family for generations. These are smaller operations that depend upon every single crop they harvest. Unfortunately, far too often, Utah farmers are forced to leave part of their crops in the field due to a lack of available labor. It is becoming increasingly difficult for family farms to harvest their entire crop because there are not enough laborers to hire. With a more flexible work visa program that gives our employers the power to hire as needed, Utah's farmers will thrive once again.

Perhaps one of Utah's greatest assets is its beautiful mountains and countryside. Utah attracts thousands of tourists year after year who come to marvel in its beauty. We have countless resorts and restaurants that depend upon tourists to survive. But, tourism is a seasonal business – there are high times and low times in every seasonal industry and Utah is not immune to this phenomenon. Unfortunately, this makes hiring for the high-season difficult and unpredictable. Many of Utah's best restaurants and resorts find themselves sitting at half capacity, even during the busiest season, simply because they could not find enough workers to fill the shifts needed to operate at full speed. With a more flexible visa program, Utah's business owners would have the power in their hands to hire workers as needed.

The impact of our immigration laws are significant on Utah's economy. We are all concerned that if substantial reform does not happen soon, our cities will be worse off. We write to you today to urge

you to work with your colleagues in the Senate to pass meaningful legislation. If the two of you become leaders on this important issue, we are confident that bipartisan reform will fall into place.

We stand behind you 100% and will offer our services in any way possible to make sure meaningful immigration reform is enacted. Utah's economy will thank us for it.

Sincerely,

Utah Mayors

Mayor Ben McAdams  
Salt Lake County, Utah

Mayor Mike Winder  
West Valley City, Utah

Mayor Cherie Wood  
South Salt Lake, Utah

Mayor Ralph Becker  
Salt Lake City, Utah

Mayor David Parrish  
Ephraim City, Utah

Mayor Ron Russell  
Centerville, Utah

Mayor Dana Williams  
Park City, Utah

Mayor Dan Snarr  
Murray City, Utah

Mayor JoAnn Seghini  
Midvale, Utah

Mayor Todd Stevenson  
Fruit Heights City, Utah

Mayor Kent Parry  
Woods Cross City, Utah

Mayor Richard Hendrix  
Harrisville City, Utah

Mayor Duane Schmidt  
Coalville City, Utah

Mayor Kelly L Field  
Lewiston City, Utah

Mayor Toni Turk  
Blanding, Utah

Mayor Scott L. Osborne  
South Jordan, Utah

Mayor Jamie Nagle  
Syracuse City, Utah

Mayor Dan McArthur  
St. George, Utah

Mayor Mark Yardley  
Beaver, Utah