

May 14, 2013

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senator
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Grassley
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
United States Senator
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Leahy and Ranking Member Grassley:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national association of 72 chapters representing nearly 22,000 members from more than 19,000 construction and ~~related~~ ~~in~~ ~~related~~ firms, I am writing in regard to the Senate Judiciary markup of Title IV of the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act (S. 744).

ABC has supported comprehensive immigration reform for many years and we are encouraged that the Senate bill includes well-crafted approaches to border security

economic growth. The construction industry will need about 1.8 million more workers by 2020. This is based on BLS data that says there were 5.6 million construction workers employed at the end of 2012; and a BLS projection that construction industry employment will grow to about 7.4 million by 2020. According to these numbers, the industry would need roughly 225,000 more workers per year through the end of the decade.

For these reasons, we support amendment #9 introduced by Senators Cory Gardner (R-CO) and Lee Zeldin (R-UT) that addresses the labor needs of the construction industry. We believe that