

Angelo I. Amador, Co-Chair  
US Chamber of Commerce

January 25, 2007

Kelly Knott, Co-Chair  
Associated General  
Contractors of America

United States Senate  
Washington, DC

Dear Senator:

Businesses are at the forefront of all employment verification issues. Thus, we have formed the Working Group to ensure that our concerns are taken into consideration in shaping any new electronic employment verification system (EEVS), including changes to the existing basic pilot program. Above all, we want a new EEVS that is workable, reliable and easy to use, not an expansion of failed experiments.

**Today we write to voice our opposition to employment verification amendments being offered to HR 2, the Minimum Wage bill. The proper venue for these amendments is within the context of comprehensive immigration reform legislation.** Employment verification is one of many areas in our immigration laws that need to be fixed, but attempting to repair one area at a time just exacerbates an already severe problem.

Since businesses are responsible for doing the bulk of the employment verification work and will, thus, have to live with whatever new mandates and liability are imposed by Congress, the Working Group wants to make sure that it is done properly this time around.

Finally, aside from being presented outside the construct of comprehensive immigration reform, the amendments we have seen so far lack key components to a workable EEVS. We need an EEVS that is fast, accurate and reliable under practical working conditions. It should also be phased-in to guarantee proper implementation at every level and have an accountability structure for all involved—including our government. Penalties should be commensurate to the offense, with provisions to protect first-time good faith offenders caught in the ever-changing myriad of federal regulations.

The Working Group looks forward to working with you in creating an EEVS that helps fix the problem instead of exacerbating an already broken system.

Our organizations urge a withdrawal of these amendments in favor of working with us to create an effective and practical EEVS.

Sincerely,

The EEVS Working Group

On behalf of:

Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform

American Immigration Lawyers Association

American Meat Institute

American Nursery & Landscape Association

American Seniors Housing Association

American Staffing Association

American Subcontractors Association

Associated Builders and Contractors, Inc.

Associated General Contractors of America

Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce

Essential Worker Immigration Coalition

National Association of Home Builders

National Club Association

National Council of Chain Restaurants

National Retail Federation

National Roofing Contractors Association

Tree Care Industry Association

US Chamber of Commerce