The Honorable Trent Franks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2435 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515  

Dear Representative Franks,

We Arizona employers and employer representatives are writing to urge you to support immigration reform that works for the Arizona economy.

There is much that is broken about the immigration system and much that needs to be reformed. We as a nation need better answers on the border. We need to restore the rule of law in our communities, and we need a workable solution for millions of unauthorized immigrants living and working in the United States. But most important for the future, we need to fix the legal immigration system so it serves America’s interests, delivering the workers and the brainpower we need to sustain a vibrant and competitive economy.

For Arizona, this means a system that provides workers and talent across the sectors that sustain the state economically – in high-tech, agriculture and low-skilled non-agricultural jobs.

Arizona’s high-tech industry employs more than 110,000 people and accounts for 5.5 percent of the state’s private-sector workforce. But despite increasing educational attainment across all levels of society, the U.S. workforce alone is not educated enough to sustain Arizona’s knowledge economy. Foreign-born students account for half of the advanced degrees in science, math and engineering awarded by U.S. universities. They and other highly-skilled foreigners don’t supplant U.S. workers. They enhance American productivity and create jobs. Arizona needs their talent to maintain our economic edge – and will need it increasingly in years ahead.

Less-skilled immigrants too are vital to the Arizona economy. Many of the state’s most important industries – hospitality, construction, food service and food processing – rely on less-skilled immigrants to fill jobs when there are no willing and able Americans. Without an immigrant labor force, all of these sectors would be severely hobbled and in some parts of the state would come close to collapse. Nowhere is this more evident than in the health care industry. Home health aide is the fastest growing occupation in America, and in the years to come we will not be able to take care of our elderly without a robust supply of immigrant workers.

Employers in Arizona’s $12 billion agricultural industry work hard to recruit U.S. workers. But whether they grow lettuce or milk cows, Arizona farmers often have difficulty attracting American employees. The U.S. workforce is increasingly educated. In 1950, more than half of American workers were high school dropouts willing to do physically demanding, low-skilled work. Today, the figure is less than 5 percent. And when they can’t attract enough Americans, farmers turn to foreign workers – often the only available answer to pressing workforce needs.

The House Judiciary Committee has recently approved measures designed to meet the nation’s need for highly skilled immigrants and agricultural guest workers. The remaining
piece that needs to be addressed: visas for less-skilled workers to fill year-round jobs in hospitality, health care, food processing, construction and other non-farm sectors.

The best antidote to illegal immigration is a legal immigration system that works.

We urge you to support legislation that restores the rule of law in the workplace and provides the workforce Arizona employers need to keep their businesses open and contributing to the economy.

Sincerely,

Arizona Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Economic Council
Greater Phoenix Leadership
Arizona Builders’ Alliance
Arizona Chapter, Associated General Contractors
Arizona Employers for Immigration Reform
Arizona Farm Bureau
Arizona Hispanic Chamber of Commerce
Arizona Lodging and Tourism Association
Arizona Manufacturers Council
Arizona Roofing Contractors Association
Arizona Technology Council
Beer and Wine Distributors of Arizona
National Council of La Raza Action Fund, Inc.
Bisbee Chamber of Commerce
Buckeye Valley Chamber of Commerce
Chandler Chamber of Commerce
Greater Phoenix Black Chamber of Commerce
Marana Chamber of Commerce
Nogales-Santa Cruz County Chamber of Commerce
Prescott Chamber of Commerce
Tempe Chamber of Commerce
Tucson Hispanic Chamber
WESTMARC
Wickenburg Chamber of Commerce
Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association
Arizona State University
Banner Health
Delta Dental of Arizona
Dignity Health
DIR Group, Inc.
DMB Associates, Inc.
Dorsett Resort by Hilton Paradise Valley-Scottsdale
Dow Chemical
DRA Strategic Communications
Drs. Goodman & Partridge, OB/GYN
Empire Southwest
EPCOR Water USA
Farmers Investment Company
Goodmans Interior Structures
Grand Canyon University
Grayhawk Development
Haydon Building Corp.
Healthy Pregnancy Perinatology
Hensley Beverage Company
Hilton Scottsdale Resort & Villas
Ironco Enterprises, LLC
Kitchell Corporation
Land Advisors Organization
LifeLock
Lincoln Property Company
Loews Ventana Canyon
LP Media
Maricopa Community Colleges
Mario E. Diaz & Associates
Mi Doctora
MomDoc
MomDoc Midwives
MomDoc Women for Women
Nations Group, LLC
Plaza Companies, AMO
SCF Arizona
Scottsdale Convention & Visitors Bureau
SHE Sexual Health Experts
Sky Harbor, LLC
SUMCO
Sun State Builders
Sunbelt Holdings
Sundt Construction
Total Transit
U.S. Bank
Urias Communications
US Airways
Valle del Sol, Inc.
Vanguard Health Systems
Westridge Obstetrics & Gynecology
Yuma Community Food Bank
Visit Mesa
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Richard H. Dozer, President (Retired), Arizona Diamondbacks
Philip L. Francis, Chairman & CEO (Retired), PetSmart, Inc.
The Honorable John W. Lewis, Mayor of Gilbert, AZ
Julie A. Pace, Esq.