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September 6, 2016

The Honorable Leon Rodriguez
Director
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
20 Massachusetts Ave NW
Washington, DC 20529

Dear Director Rodriguez,

I write again asking for your assistance in resolving the outstanding H-visa extension issue that is affecting numerous industries, including construction and health care, on Guam. I am deeply concerned by yet another report of the direct impact on the military build-up that failure to extend the H-visas will cause on Guam. It is expected that this week Core Tech International will have to send nearly 400 workers, about one-quarter of their work force, out of the United States as a result of visa extension rejections. Further, I am informed by the Guam Department of Labor that the total H-visa workforce on Guam may be less than 100 by the end of the year. Many of these workers are assisting with hangar construction at Andersen AFB among other projects on island. Core Tech is not the only firm impacted, nor is the construction sector alone in suffering from these challenges. I appreciated your willingness to work with my office to address this issue, however the situation is quickly becoming untenable and fast regulatory action is needed to alleviate this matter.

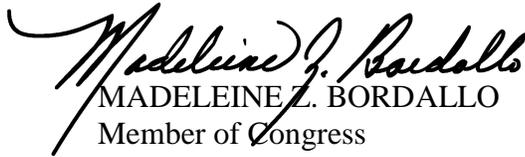
As you know, I included language in the House-passed National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 which would grant USCIS flexibility within current authorities to ensure there is an appropriate workforce on Guam. The provision is currently under discussion in the on-going defense bill Conference Committee negotiations. However, given the current timeline for enactment, language will not be implemented until the spring of next year, at the earliest. I believe that the language I have included in this year's defense bill gives a clear sense of how Congress believes this policy matter should be solved and I hope that my actions will provide you with latitude to take appropriate action in addressing the workforce challenges we face from now until my provision takes effect in law.

In particular, I ask that you apply deferred action to H-2B cases on Guam, or Continued Employment Authorization if appropriate, as was done for CW workers on CNMI last month, to provide temporary relief until authorizing language can be implemented. I believe this is an appropriate and immediate step that will ensure Guam continues to have the workforce necessary to continue projects that support the realignment of military forces on Guam. Stopping projects now risks the broader realignment strategy and also negatively impacts local civilian

infrastructure projects. I have taken appropriate steps to address this matter and I hope that you will use all authorities available to you to find an appropriate stop gap measure so we have the workforce to continue with these critical projects.

Thank you for your consideration of this request. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Military Legislative Assistant, Jason McMahon, at (202) 225-1188 or at jason.mcmahon@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,


MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO
Member of Congress