



NEWS

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FRA WORKING TO LIFT H-2B GUESTWORKER PROCESSING SUSPENSION

Washington, DC – The Forest Resources Association today expressed its frustration over the Department of Labor’s (DOL) arbitrary decision to stop issuing guest worker visas.

“Guestworkers from Central America and Mexico are absolutely critical to the practice of sustainable forestry in this country,” said Deb Hawkinson, President of the Forest Resources Association. “Because the work is seasonal and tree-planting crews move throughout wide regions, U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents are just not interested in this work. Legal, fully vetted guestworkers have performed it for many decades, under authorization of the H-2B visa program.”

FRA has been leading advocacy efforts on behalf of the forestry sector to persuade DOL to change course. “We are absolutely at a loss to understand why DOL would take such an economy-disrupting step,” Hawkinson commented.

FRA has taken its concerns to Capitol Hill, where numerous Members of Congress from both parties and in both chambers have already communicated their opposition to DOL’s guestworker visa stoppage. Group letters are now circulating in both chambers urging the Department to change course and to support the Department of Homeland Security, which actually has the authority to regulate the H-2B program.

The **Forest Resources Association Inc.** is a nonprofit trade association concerned with the safe, efficient, and sustainable harvest of forest products and their transport from woods to mill. FRA represents wood consumers, landowners, independent logging contractors, and wood dealers, as well as businesses providing products and services to the forest resource-based industries.

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