BUSINESS COMMUNITY EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTED IN THIS CONGRESS’ FAILURE TO ACT ON COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

The Essential Worker Immigration Coalition is tremendously disappointed that this Congress was incapable of fulfilling its legislative duties to move forward on a bipartisan comprehensive immigration bill.

This immigration issue is not going away and will be addressed in one form or another in the near future. EWIC pledges to do everything in our power to assist in passing workable immigration reform in both the House and Senate.

The need for reform is too critical and the work already done by Democrats and Republicans too great to give up now. Comprehensive immigration reform is essential to our national security, our economy, and to our society. Immigration is one of the most critical domestic policy issues of the day and it deserves constructive reform efforts, not the obstructionism and political pandering we witnessed today.

The status quo is bad and will worsen. American citizens and American businesses need to have confidence that there is a workable plan to address our dysfunctional immigration laws. States and local governments will continue to react to Federal inaction with countless immigration laws and enforcement measures which we believe are pre-empted under the U.S. Constitution but which will result in much litigation and a continuing demonization of the contributions of immigrants to our country. In addition, the status quo will continue to expose employers, who must deal with a broken legal structure, to unfair liability. If nothing is done, businesses will be forced to close and American workers as well as immigrant workers will lose jobs, jobs will be outsourced overseas where there is an adequate workforce, and our national and economic security will be jeopardized.

We strongly urge the House Republicans and Democrats to take up the challenge of reform post haste.

The Essential Worker Immigrant Coalition (EWIC) is a broad-based coalition of national businesses and trade associations from across the industry spectrum concerned with the shortage of both semi-skilled and unskilled (“essential worker”) labor. EWIC supports policies that facilitate the employment of essential workers by U.S. companies that are unable to find American workers (www.ewic.org). For further information, contact EWIC co-chairs Laura Reiff at (703) 749-1372, Randy Johnson at (202) 463-5448, John Gay at (202) 331-5912 or Craig Silvertooth at (202) 546-7584.