



October 25, 2013

The Honorable Ann Kirkpatrick
330 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kirkpatrick,

The Flagstaff Chamber and the following supporters believe we cannot wait any longer for comprehensive immigration reform. In economic times like these, we need common sense policies that keep our economy growing while also securing our borders and rewarding law abiding businesses. This issue has been brewing for too long and the business community can no longer afford inaction.

As an advocate for more than 1,000 businesses and organizations in our community, we encourage you to consider the economic impact and benefit of immigration reform to our local, state, and national economy. In this case, the numbers couldn't be clearer. According to a study by the Center for American Progress and the Immigration Policy Center, the creation of a commonsense immigration process would lead to a \$1.5 trillion increase in GDP over 10 years, contribute to the creation of as many as 900,000 jobs, and increase revenues by as much as \$5.4 billion. Immigrants are already in our country. Deporting 11 million people is unrealistic. We need commonsense legislation that would allow them to legally contribute to our economy, regardless of how they came here.

Immigration reform would provide a path to citizenship and assimilation while securing our border, cracking down on illegal hiring, and creating a more market-responsive program for both low and high-skilled visas that responds to the needs of businesses and improves our global competitiveness in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). This will reward honest businesses while ensuring the people already here receive equitable opportunity at jobs and employment.

The legislation passed by the Senate earlier this year was the result of eight Senators, frequently at odds with each other, who were able to come together to develop a commonsense, bi-partisan approach to an issue of the greatest importance. We are confident the House can do the same and America's broken immigration system be fixed this year.

We appreciate the stand you have already taken to see comprehensive immigration reform come to pass. As always, you have our unyielding support on this issue and we thank you for everything you have done to represent our great community and state.



Julie Pastrick
President & CEO
Flagstaff Chamber of Commerce



Greg Sampson
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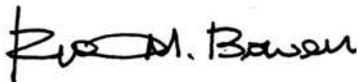
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