



June 7, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

On behalf of the meat and poultry industry, I am writing to urge your support for the comprehensive immigration legislation that is currently pending before the Senate. As you may know, the American Meat Institute supports a comprehensive approach to immigration reform. We believe this legislation is a credible, productive first step in providing constructive solutions to address the many problems facing our immigration system.

Meaningful immigration reform must include provisions that provide:

- A path to legalization so that workers in the U.S. who have become important members of local communities and contributors to our economy have the opportunity to become legal;
- Enhancement of current screening systems for employees by allowing federal databases to share information to ensure their legal status through other practical changes and by providing practical steps to address true-identity theft;
- A viable expanded employment visa program;
- The necessary tools to secure our nation's borders.

We believe this legislation provides the foundation to meet these objectives.

The meat and poultry industry accepts its role in trying to hire and maintain a legal workforce as demonstrated by our industry's support for the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' Basic Pilot Employment Verification Program, including our past support for its reauthorization and expansion. Although, the program is not perfect, it has simplified the I-9 verification process and is the best tool available in deterring potentially illegal and fraudulent workers. S. 1348 enhances the current Basic Pilot Program by reducing the number of documents that can be presented at hiring, allows for information sharing between DHS and SSA to reduce true identity theft, and allows for a biometric component in identity documents.

As an industry that provides many jobs throughout the U.S., we urge passage of this comprehensive immigration reform bill. This legislation provides a practical foundation to

address many of the meat and poultry industry's principles for comprehensive immigration reform, provide increased border security for our country and enhance the U.S. economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Patrick Boyle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J" and a long, sweeping underline.

J. Patrick Boyle