



American Subcontractors Association, Inc.

NEWS RELEASE

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Construction Subcontractors Praise President Bush for Communicating Immigration Reform Realities on Capitol Hill

ALEXANDRIA, Va. — The American Subcontractors Association Inc. (ASA) praised President George W. Bush for visiting Capitol Hill today, where he met with Republican legislators to advance the cause of comprehensive immigration reform.

“ASA applauds the president for calling on Congress to pass, without further needless delays, comprehensive immigration reform legislation,” said 2006-07 ASA President Stephen Rohrbach, CPC, president of F. A. Rohrbach Inc., Allentown, Pa. “Killer amendments that block comprehensive immigration reform do not serve the American people, who demand action. The American people understand that there is a fundamental choice to be made between action and inaction — between change and the status quo. ASA agrees with them and with President Bush that comprehensive reform won’t happen by itself. The time for Congress to act is now.”

ASA supports immigration reform legislation that:

- Addresses both future economic needs for workers through the creation of a guest worker program and practically addresses the estimated 7-11 million undocumented workers already in the United States.
- Creates an immigration system that functions efficiently for employers, workers and government agencies.
- Creates a program that allows hard-working, tax-paying undocumented workers to earn legal status.
- Ensures that U.S. workers are not displaced by foreign workers.
- Ensures that all workers enjoy the same labor-law protections.
- Strengthens national security by providing for the screening of foreign workers and creating a disincentive for illegal immigration.
- Strengthens the rule of law by establishing clear and sensible immigration laws that are efficiently and vigorously enforced.

The Senate has been debating major comprehensive reform legislation, S. 1348, but the legislation has failed to advance as some senators have voted to permit more amendments, which could derail passage of the bill.

(MORE)

“Should passage not occur, comprehensive immigration reform’s promise of enhanced national security and economic well-being would be that much further away,” said ASA Manager of Government Relations Freeman Smith. “As of June 12, S. 1348 did not contain all the elements ASA wants, but it does represent a workable compromise. ASA is hopeful that provisions such as those in S. 1348 creating an electronic system for verification of eligibility to work would make compliance easier for subcontractors and help create a safe harbor for compliant businesses.”

The current version of S. 1348 also has provisions that would establish a pathway to (not a guarantee of) legal status creating documentation for currently undocumented immigrants who are eligible. Without reform, that documentation might never be established, and millions of current and future undocumented workers could work and live outside the American legal system indefinitely.

For more information, contact Freeman Smith at (703) 684-3450, Ext. 1321, or fsmith@asa-hq.com.

Founded in 1966, ASA amplifies the voice of, and leads, trade contractors to improve the business environment for the construction industry and to serve as a steward for the community. ASA’s vision is to be the united voice dedicated to improving the business environment in the construction industry. The ideals and beliefs of ASA are ethical and equitable business practices, quality construction, a safe and healthy work environment, and integrity and membership diversity.

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