



June 25, 2013

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
House Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC), a national association of 72 chapters representing nearly 22,000 members from more than 19,000 construction and industry-related firms, I am writing in regard to the House Judiciary Committee mark-up of the *Legal Workforce Act* (H.R. 1772). ABC supports this legislation that seeks to establish a new mandatory employment verification system by modifying the current E-Verify program.

We believe this legislation represents a first step towards a reliable and efficient system that works for both employers and employees. We particularly appreciate the inclusion of the following in the aforementioned bill:

- A strong safe harbor provision to protect employers from prosecution or penalties when they act in good faith while using E-Verify.
- Federal preemption language that will better allow employers to conduct business across state lines without being in constant conflict with state or local laws that mandate verification for employment eligibility purposes.
- A two year phase-in for employers with less than 20 employees. This gradual phase-in provides many of our members, who have limited resources, a reasonable time-frame to comply with the online E-Verify system.
- The toll-free telephonic option for those unable to access the system electronically.

ABC continues to support a workable, reliable, efficient and easy-to-use employment verification system that meets regulators' needs without unduly burdening commerce and hampering economic growth. Again, we appreciate your leadership on H.R. 1772 and look forward to working with you on immigration reform.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Burr', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Geoffrey Burr  
Vice President, Federal Affairs