

Dear X,

*The earliest one can file to the Department of Labor is ninety days before one's date of need. Any employer who wants workers, like myself, for the spring or summer seasons has to apply for an April 1 start date because all the visas are used up on April 1. In response to the rising demand, DOL said they were going to time stamp the applications received down to the millisecond. Therefore thousands of employers and dozens of third party agents/attorneys were prepared to click submit on their 9142s when the clock struck midnight ET New Year's Eve.*

*Unfortunately DOL's system, iCert, crashed and no one was able to submit an application. We stood by for over two hours waiting on a response from DOL. Finally they said that they were going to take the system down and would have an update for us January 2<sup>nd</sup> at 12 PM ET.*

*DOL just announced that demand was for more than 97,800 workers for the 33,000 available visas and would provide their next update in a few days.*

*This proves that Congress must address the cap issue or one in three employers will not be getting their workers this spring. Will Representative X, once again, speak to Leadership to relay the latest information and request that either a permanent Returning Worker Exemption or the Tillis/Harris language is included in whatever deal is reached to end the shutdown?*

*Thanks again for the support. It is brutal being left in the lurch like this while also knowing, if nothing changes, I only have an one in three chance of getting my H-2B workers this spring.*

*Regards,*