

Robyn Boerstling

*Vice President
Infrastructure, Innovation and Human Resources Policy*

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chair
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Tim McClintock
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chair Lofgren and Ranking Member Buck:

The National Association of Manufacturers appreciates this subcommittee's focus on the critical need for Congress to advance immigration reform with today's hearing on "The U.S. Immigration System: The Need for Bold Reforms." The urgency of fixing our broken immigration system has been made painfully clear in recent years. This hearing is an important step to advance much-needed, long-term solutions for replacing our current system with one that improves national security, boosts our economy and reflects America's values.

As the voice of the manufacturing community, the NAM is the leading advocate for a policy agenda that helps manufacturers compete in the global economy and create jobs across the United States. For decades, we have worked with policymakers from across the ideological spectrum to craft policies that encourage the growth of manufacturing in the United States. Now more than ever, America needs leaders in Washington who are focused on increasing American jobs, wages and investment.

Manufacturers believe that now is the time for Congress to act to overhaul our broken immigration system. Congress should pursue solutions that bolster our national security, demonstrate compassion and establish an immigration system that reflects today's workforce economic realities. The NAM has proposed "[A Way Forward](#)," a post-partisan and practical roadmap to address the challenges created by our current system and to fix those issues once and for all.

The NAM's "A Way Forward" proposal identifies seven core areas of action for Congress and the administration to take:

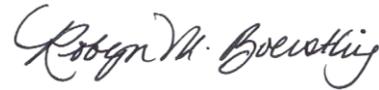
- Build walls, fences and barriers and employ other measures to strengthen border security;
- Prioritize America's workforce needs through reforms to the legal immigration system;
- Reform nonimmigrant visas and temporary worker programs to reflect employer needs, including a fund to support STEM programs so that we can reduce the need for these types of visas in the future;
- Provide a permanent and compassionate solution for populations facing uncertainty, including the Dreamers, who were brought here as children and know no other home;

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- Reform asylum and refugee programs for a more orderly and humane system, including asylum standards consistent with our values;
- Fix the problem of the unauthorized population with a firm reset, requiring an orderly process of review, including financial penalties for those who seek to become legal and deportation for those who choose to stay in the shadows;
- Strengthen the rule of law so that it is respected and followed by all, with a focus on gang violence and also on requiring localities to cooperate to advance the enforcement of immigration priorities;

A complete copy of the plan is included as an attachment. Manufacturers believe the path we have laid out can bring the country together, and we look forward to working with you and appreciate your consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Robyn M. Goetting".

cc: The Honorable Jerry Nadler; The Honorable Jim Jordan