



November 19, 2019

Dear Congressman Curtis,

Utah has long placed a priority on fair and balanced immigration policies. As the representative and voice of the state's business community, the Salt Lake Chamber has seen firsthand the negative consequences of closed and inflexible immigration policies that undermine not only the welfare of individuals and families but the effectiveness of our businesses and the strength of our communities. Conversely, we have seen the positive affect that thoughtful immigration policies can have when considered carefully and implemented with a constructive end in mind. For these reasons, the Salt Lake Chamber supports this bill as an important step in providing states with the ability to meet workforce needs in a way the serves all constituencies.

This is important in our state. Utah has a fast growing, diverse economy, as well as a 2.8% unemployment rate which requires thoughtful planning and customizable tools to meet the employment needs of our growing companies and corporate base. We have the strong foundation of a well-educated, well-trained and willing workforce that makes Utah a great place to do business, and this foundation will benefit significantly from legislation that augments its size and quality, particularly in meeting needs that are specific to our state.

The Salt Lake Chamber views the ability for Utah to create a state sponsored visa program that will help achieve specific workforce objectives as necessary and welcome—a natural step in Utah's history of promoting versatility in our state's ability to meet the needs of its unique economy. Toward this end, we would certainly take advantage of the opportunities presented in this bill.

We appreciate that this bill, in the spirit of the Utah Compact, will allow us and other states to create a program that goes beyond one-size-fits all to allow what I believe are laboratories of democracy the ability to create workable solutions to fit unique workforce and economic requirements. In this way, we can all learn and benefit while focusing on respective needs closest to home.

Thank you for taking on this important issue in the midst of a difficult political climate. We appreciate your leadership and stand willing help in moving this legislation forward.

Please let us know what we can do to further support your efforts.

Very sincerely,

Derek B. Miller
President & CEO
Salt Lake Chamber