



STATE OF UTAH

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GARY R. HERBERT
GOVERNOR

SPENCER J. COX
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

November 12, 2019

The Honorable John Curtis
125 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Curtis,

Thank you for your efforts to empower states and to remove federal impediments to state policy innovations.

Your State-Sponsored Visa Pilot Program Act is a good example of this approach. The bill allows state leaders to design visa programs customized to the economic needs of their individual states. The benefits of the bill are obvious. Each state is different. Each state has a different mix of industries, different educational emphases, different employment needs, and different regulatory regimes. And of course those factors change over time.

Utah's economy is one of the fastest growing in the country. Our unemployment rate is 2.8%. We also happen to have the most diverse economy in the country, according to the Hachman Index. We have burgeoning financial services and technology sectors, vibrant energy and agricultural sectors, and of course we have a booming tourism economy.

All of this translates to a need for a workforce to match these growing and dynamic sectors of our economy. We need high-skilled immigrants working for our tech companies and in our educational institutions, and seasonal workers in our tourism and agricultural industries. We simply don't have enough workers to fill the jobs. As a governor, I would jump at the opportunity to design a work visa program that would allow Utah to sponsor the migrant workers, investors, and entrepreneurs that we need.

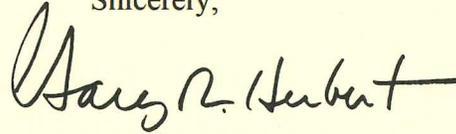
I appreciate your efforts in the midst of a congressional dialogue that has involved more bickering than solutions. I have been consistently frustrated by Congress's inability to find a solution to immigration, and particularly to the most obvious of our system's problems—a byzantine and nonsensical path for legal immigration. If we want to be competitive with the rest of the world, we have to make it easier for the world's brightest and most ambitious people to come to the United States, get an education, start their businesses, raise their families, and become citizens if they choose.

For the sake of our continued prosperity, I hope Congress and the Administration can find consensus around common-sense immigration policy, but whether or not that happens, I

think your idea is an excellent step forward. It will empower states to tailor immigration policies to the needs of their economies.

Thank you again for your good work, and please let me know how I can be helpful.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Gary R. Herbert". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Gary R. Herbert
Governor