

# U. A. LOCAL UNION 469

3109 N. 24th Street, • Phoenix, AZ 85016-7399 • 602-956-9350 • Fax: 602-956-9782

Web Site: [www.ualocal469.org](http://www.ualocal469.org)

Brothers and Sisters,

I am writing to you to enlist your aid on a very important issue. Every single member needs to contact US Senators John Kyl and John McCain ***multiple times*** to convey our message that the current Senate bill S. 1348 is unacceptable. I have included in this letter the contact information for our Senators, and a message from General President William Hite, explaining the reasons we should oppose this potentially dangerous bill. This is not a union issue, but an American construction worker issue, and we must do our best to kill this bill. I know I can count on you to do your part and protect our jobs.

The following excerpt is a legislative notification from our United Association General President, William P. Hite:

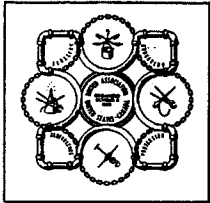
## **Added Legislative Update from UA General President Hite**

**TO: ALL UNITED ASSOCIATION LOCAL UNIONS IN THE UNITED STATES**

**I am writing to request all Local Unions to immediately contact their U.S. Senators about two pieces of legislation which are of vital importance to the UA. The current bill is not dead and is likely to be voted on in the Senate within the next week or shortly thereafter. The guest worker aspect of the bill is a real threat to all UA members!**

**Under the proposed guest worker program, construction workers are classified as unskilled workers. Construction workers are in the same category as farm field workers who pick crops. The upshot is that large international construction companies, or any other contractor, will, for example, be able to bring in crews of trained welders, plumbers, or fitters from any country to perform UA work at minimum wages and no benefits. This can happen virtually on a permanent basis. Once a guest worker uses up his or her time under the guest worker program, another worker will be able to be brought in as a replacement. The current bill allows for 600,000 third world workers to come here every year. In ten years, that's six million foreigners doing our work! The unionized construction industry currently has about three million in the workforce today. Think about it... we would be out of business.**

**COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE**



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**This is ridiculous and we cannot allow this to happen. From my experience in dealing with this issue, many in Congress do not understand the full implication of the guest worker program. Our politicians have already approved the transfer of our manufacturing industry overseas and now they want to give away some of the best jobs in the United States. As I stated before, the only action needed to provide an adequate construction workforce is to allow for easier transfer of workers between the U.S. and Canada and vice versa.**

**Locals need to immediately contact their Senators and state their opposition to the bill, particularly on the guest worker program. The second task we must accomplish is to educate our members on this issue.**

**Do not let this issue be acted on by Congress without our representatives knowing our positions.**

Please contact our senator's NOW! Together, we can defeat the Immigration Reform Act. Contact information for Senators Kyl and McCain can be found on back. Also included is a sample letter encouraging all members to contact their local newspapers regarding this matter. Together, we will be an undaunted force in protecting our jobs and our futures.

Fraternally,

Phil McNally Jr.  
Business Manager  
U.A. Local 469

**COMMITTED TO EXCELLENCE**

**Senator Jon Kyl (R-AZ-S2)**

730 Hart Senate Office Building Rm. 730 / Washington, DC 20510 / (202) 224-4521 / Fax: (202) 224-2207  
2200 E. Camelback Road Suite 120 Phoenix, AZ 85016-3455 (602) 840-1891  
7315 N. Oracle St. Suite 220 Tucson, AZ 85704 (520) 575-8633

**Senator John McCain (R-AZ-S1)**

241 Russell Senate Office Building Rm. 241 / Washington, DC 20510 / (202) 224-2235 / Fax: (202) 228-2862, 5353 North 16th Street Suite 105 Phoenix, AZ 85016 (602) 952-2410  
4703 S. Lakeshore Drive Suite 1 Tempe, AZ 85282 (480) 897-6289  
407 W. Congress Street Suite 103 Tucson, AZ 85701 (520) 670-6334

**Sample OP-ED**

There is no question in anyone's mind that our nation's immigration policy is broken, and that immediate steps need to be taken to fix the problem. Unfortunately, the immigration reform legislation that is currently pending before the US Senate does not fix our problems. In fact, passage of this legislation will further exacerbate the unconscionable exploitation of immigrant workers in the US building and construction industry, while simultaneously accelerating a further erosion of US workers' living standards. What is especially troubling is that this legislation establishes a new temporary guest worker program without any credible wage floor protections for these workers. For those of us who toil in the building and construction industry, we see how these workers are exploited and abused by unscrupulous contractors on a daily basis...and how this situation is driving down wages and living standards for American construction workers. The exploitation of temporary and illegal workers in the construction industry is systematically destroying what is a viable path to a middle class lifestyle for millions of Americans. The current Senate bill simply allows for the continuation of the status quo. For America's building and construction trades unions, that is simply unacceptable. We believe that it is in the best interests of our nation and its workers that undocumented and illegal immigrants are accounted for in the economy through a process of "earned legal status." It is not sufficient, nor is it fair, for comprehensive immigration reform to simply propose that undocumented and illegal immigrants should be granted legal status without defining a path that requires legal status to be earned. We also believe that the a primary Constitutional responsibility of the federal government is to provide for the security of the American people, its territory and its sovereignty in order to make the United States' homeland safe. Achievement of these goals is critical as a means of reducing our vulnerability to terrorism, and also as a means of preserving the economic conditions of its citizens and legal residents. Implementation of strong and effective border security measures with appropriate funding will help combat the threat of terrorism as well as the threat to the living standards of U.S. workers. Enforcement of our border security must also be accompanied by fair and effective enforcement of our existing immigration laws, as well as fair and equal enforcement of federal and state labor and employment laws. Further, a mandatory electronic work-eligibility verification system is needed, and it should be accompanied by strong and effective procedures designed to protect personal and civil rights, along with substantial increases in the fines, penalties and sanctions levied against employers who violate our immigration laws. We would hope that the United States Senate would slow down in its race to "get something passed" on this issue, and take a breath and truly examine the effects that this misguided legislation will have on those of us who are trying to maintain a decent life for our families. At the very least, they should defeat this bill and start anew.