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LEGISLATIVE ALERT!

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May 24, 2006

Dear Senator:

The AFL-CIO strongly urges you to support the following post-cloture amendments to the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act (S. 2611):

Vote Yes on a Feinstein amendment to strike the automatic 20 percent increase in the H-1B visa program. The underlying bill already increases the current H1-B visa cap from 65,000 to 115,000 and includes numerous exemptions.

Vote Yes on a Boxer amendment to require that employers recruit and hire available U.S. workers before applying for guest worker visas. The Boxer amendment also requires employers to certify that they have worked with state employment agencies in their recruitment effort.

Vote Yes on a Dorgan amendment to sunset the H2-C guest worker program after 5 years. The Dorgan amendment will enable policymakers to assess the impact of the massive new guest worker program on U.S. labor markets.

In addition, the AFL-CIO strongly urges you to reject the following amendments:

Vote No on a Chambliss amendment that would make it more difficult for farm workers to adjust to legal status under the bill. The so-called "AgJobs" compromise was the product of years of negotiation between agricultural employers and worker advocates.

Vote No on a Sessions amendment to deny a wide range of immigrants access to the earned income tax credit (EITC).

Sincerely,

William Samuel, Director
DEPARTMENT OF LEGISLATION