

**MATTHEW H. MEAD**  
GOVERNOR



2323 Carey Avenue  
CHEYENNE, WY 82002

## Office of the Governor

September 1, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing to you regarding the J-1 Summer Work Travel program and other similar foreign worker programs such as the H-2A and H-1B. The participants in these programs and the labor they provide are extremely valuable to Wyoming, a geographically large state with a population of less than 600,000. Reductions made to these programs would have significant negative impacts on Wyoming's top three industries – energy development, tourism and agriculture.

In a rural state like Wyoming, it is a challenge to find enough workers to staff our mines, oil rigs, hotels, restaurants, ranches, farms and other businesses. These programs are critical to meeting Wyoming's workforce needs. Industries that help keep the lights on, people fed in the U.S. and provide essential services to millions of visitors annually rely on these programs. Without them, Wyoming's economy will suffer.

Programs like the J-1, H-2A and H-1B are vitally important to our state. As you consider reductions to such visiting worker programs, I urge you to keep in mind the labor force challenges of our rural state.

Thanks you for considering my letter and concerns.

Sincerely,



Matthew H. Mead  
Governor

MHM:cm

Cc: The Honorable Mike Enzi, United States Senate  
The Honorable John Barrasso, United States Senate  
The Honorable Elizabeth Cheney, United States House of Representatives  
Western Governor's Association