

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

September 13, 2011

The Honorable Lamar Smith
Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Smith:

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing the interests of more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports H.R. 2885, the "Legal Workforce Act," which would create a workable employment verification (E-verify) system.

The Chamber commends you for your leadership on this important issue. Provisions in H.R. 2885 would preempt state and local laws mandating either the use of E-Verify or the establishment of state or local employment verification schemes. This bill would also mirror the existing FAR rules for federal contractors using E-Verify on the current workforce, create a clear safe harbor for good faith employers, and establish an integrated I-9 and E-Verify system available both electronically and via telephone.

The Chamber believes your bill addresses a key problem with our nation's dysfunctional immigration system. However, significant issues remain in order to achieve a fully reformed system. To that end, the Chamber will work with you and Congress to pass additional legislation addressing these aspects of immigration reform.

The Chamber recognizes that H.R. 2885 balances many competing interests, and looks forward to continue working with you to overcome any roadblocks that may arise as this bill is considered by Congress.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten

cc: Members of the House Committee on the Judiciary