Your Senator, Jon Tester, is a member of the Senate Appropriations’ [Subcommittee on](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/about/subcommittees/subcommittee-on-border-security-and-immigration) Homeland Security. The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill is the committee of origination for all cap relief provisions over the last twenty years.

Therefore, Senator Tester’s support of the Graham Manchin bill is critical. His cosponsorship would greatly improve its chances of being included in reconciliation. Use the template below for your email to Laura Peterson, **laura\_peterson@tester.senate.gov**

**CUSTOMIZE LETTER**

Dear Laura,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. I am the owner of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ based in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

As you know, my company and the other seasonal businesses in Montana have had an impossible time finding labor. This has been compounded by the insufficient number of visas made available to us in the H-2B program. The cap of 66,000 was set in 1990 and has not been altered since. This cap is crippling my business. I have had to cancel contracts, reduce equipment and supply purchases and it has prevented me from hiring additional full-time, year-round American workers.

As of August 28th, DOL had received requests for 49,569 positions towards the FY22 first half cap (October 1 - March 30). This means the first half cap will be met weeks earlier than in 2020, likely as early as October 1. The implication is that there will be additional pressure on the second half cap.

This is why it is more urgent than ever that Congress pass a permanent fix! Senator Graham recently introduced S. introduced [S.2443](https://www.govtrack.us/congress/bills/117/s2443) also known as the “Graham Manchin bill.” The bill modernizes H-2A to include aliens engaged in seafood processing, horticultural commodities and the care of horses.

My American workers will be the direct beneficiary of this legislation. H-2B workers do not take American jobs, they create American jobs. As the research overwhelming shows, every H-2B worker supports the jobs of between 3.2 and 4.6 American workers. To receive a certification from DOL, I am required to canvass the local labor market and preferentially hire qualified American workers.

Will Senator Tester commit to cosponsoring Senator Graham and Senator Manchin’s H-2B to H-2A bill?

Thank you for reading my urgent plea. I look forward to your response.