



November 11, 2016

NCAE Statement On 2016 Presidential Election

Our congratulations to President-Elect Donald J. Trump. We look forward to working with his administration and the soon to be seated 115th Congress in 2017.

Everyone in government, and every political analyst I can think of, whether Republican or Democrat, was taken by surprise. All believed the decision would be a close one, but so-called conventional wisdom pointed to a Clinton win. Even Las Vegas odds-makers were giving Trump only a 30%, or less likelihood of winning.

As with all Presidential changes, a continuing hallmark of our democracy in the United States is a peaceful--- and hopefully gracious, transfer of power. We expect a level of respect and cooperation by all for the President-Elect to obtain the information and briefings he needs to start work for the American people, all of them. Now is the time to work to build relationships and educate the transition team on the issues and needs of Agricultural Employers.

While it is still too early to provide real analysis of what 2017 offers us, we know that we will be looking at a Republican administration, Republican Senate, and Republican House in 2017. This poses huge (or should we say YUUUGE) opportunities AND challenges for agricultural employers including but not limited to:

- Likelihood that Congress will move to address border security and employment verification relatively quickly. This may provide the opportunity we need to address labor needs and agency bureaucracy. Our challenge will be to counter any "amnesty" claims in any initiative that addresses the current workforce.
- Foreign trade issues will bring concerns and opportunities. (Many have already proclaimed TPP dead and there was campaign rhetoric about re-opening others, including NAFTA that are all of interest to the agricultural community).

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- It is highly likely the Affordable Care Act will be repealed. The big question is what will the new Congress replace it with, how long will that take, and what will it cost?
- We will see a major shift in the Cabinet, which means policy and enforcement priorities will shift, political appointees will change, some career people will be shuffled and/or de-emphasized, and we will have to rebuild our road-maps and bridges with regulatory agencies. The opportunities here include policy and enforcement priorities and attitudes in many agencies, for Ag Employers particularly in US Department of Labor (DOL), Department of Homeland Security and US Customs and Immigration (DHS/USCIS), US Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the US Environmental Agency (EPA)--- the opportunities may be balanced with risks in some cases, particularly in the directions DHS takes relative to aggressive employer sanctions.
- We have every reason to believe that the new Congress will move quickly on issues of worker verification, possibly universal e-verify and other employer mandates, internal security which may include resumption of ICE audits, and border security. It will be our role to work with that Congress to assure that agricultural employers will have access to legally work-authorized workers available to them without delay.
- We all look forward to engaging with the new administration and the 115th Congress to represent the needs of US Agricultural Employers.
- Although there may be “nothing new under the sun” we will be facing a climate in DC that we have not seen for many years starting just about the time of our Annual Meeting (February 7-9, 2017). Plan to join us there and get involved in the “whole new ballgame” of the Trump Administration and the 115th Congress!

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