



2009 GUIDELINES ON IMMIGRATION

Background

1. The United States is faced with a large and growing population of unauthorized aliens who are entering the country illegally, often in search of employment.
2. Recent State legislation and proposed federal legislation would require businesses to assume more responsibility for insuring that those in the country illegally are not employed.
3. The issue of illegal immigrants and how to address those currently in the country is a national problem with social and economic implications for all involved.
4. Mesa County has a long tradition of employing seasonal laborers in our orchards and other agricultural endeavors.
5. Mesa County has a major labor shortage.
6. Most employers are small in Mesa County and do not employ full time human resource managers.

Guideline Statement

The United States is a nation born of immigrants. There is a unique and strong bond between the strength of this nation and its history as a “melting pot” for those seeking a new life from all over the globe.

The role of the Chamber is to represent business and while there are multiple facets to the issue of illegal immigration, our organization is focused on how employers can and will be affected in this ongoing national debate.

The Chamber Supports:

1. Measures that will ensure the nation’s borders are secure.
2. Expansion and streamlining of the guest worker program.
3. Uniform enforcement of our laws.
4. A reliable method whereby employers can easily verify immigration status of employees.

The Chamber Opposes:

1. Legislation that puts the burden of enforcing laws on employers.