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Dear New Jersey Congressional Delegation Members,

On behalf of our members that provide 1 million jobs in New Jersey and make NJBIA the largest statewide business association in the nation, we urge you to support the Department of State's J-1 BridgeUSA Program (formerly known as the Summer Work Travel (SWT) Program) by supporting bipartisan House Resolution 901 introduced by Congressman Moore (R-UT) and Congresswoman Kuster (D-NH).

The J-1 BridgeUSA program provides international exchange students from around the world with the opportunity to experience and learn about the people and culture of the United States. These programs also enable students to obtain temporary seasonal employment to help offset the costs associated with these cultural experiences. In addition to valuable life experiences, these students provide a critical supplement to seasonal businesses across the country and in our state that cannot operate at full capacity without them.

Over the past two years, our state's hospitality and tourism employers have faced tremendous hardships without J-1 visas holders supplementing their workforces. A recent national survey of BridgeUSA program hosts published by the Alliance for International Exchange found that the decrease in 2021 participants resulted in the following detrimental impacts on their businesses:

- 90% of businesses were not able to meet peak staffing needs
- 60% of businesses lost revenue
- 3 in 5 host businesses shortened their season, hours or closed business

locations

Due to the ongoing impacts of the covid-19 pandemic and workforce challenges, seasonal businesses across the country and in our state will need seasonal student workers now more than ever to get back on their feet and meet demand this year.

I urge you to support our state's hospitality and tourism industry through the J-1 BridgeUSA program by cosponsoring H. Res. 901 sponsored by Congressman Moore (R-UT) and Congresswoman Kuster (D-NH). To sign on, please contact Paul Johnson (Congressman Moore's office) at paul.johnson@mail.house.gov and/or Travis Krogman (Congresswoman Kuster's office) at travis.krogman@mail.house.gov.

Please let me know if you plan to sign on. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
Alexis Bailey
Director of Government Affairs
New Jersey Business and Industry Association

