



The Honorable Charles Grassley
United States Senate
135 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

June 20, 2019

Dear Senator Grassley:

I am writing on behalf of the nearly 180,000 American members of the IEEE to thank you for proposing amendments to S. 386, the Fairness for High-Skilled Immigrants Act. Your amendments will bring needed reforms to the H-1b temporary work visa program. Given the impact S. 386 will have on demand for H-1B visas, your reforms are timely and necessary to protect America's technology workers.

As you know, in 2014 Walt Disney used the H-1B visa program to replace hundreds of workers in Orlando with less-expensive H-1B workers – after requiring the Americans to train their replacements. Since then ... nothing has happened. The law still allows companies to replace American workers with poorly paid and easily exploited non-Americans. Every year, thousands of American jobs are put off limits to Americans because of the H-1B. Moreover, H-1B workers hired in place of Americans are very rarely invited to become Americans, costing our country long-term access to these educated and innovative workers.

Currently many EB green card applicants, especially those from India, face ridiculously long waits, but other applicants are able to secure an EB visa within a year or two. This is unfair, but it does at least allow some companies to hire skilled workers right out of college. Should S. 386 become law, this will no longer be the case.

Instead, all EB applicants will face a near-decade long delay. Companies will need a visa for these workers while they wait if America is to have access to any of the world's most educated and innovative workers. The only available visa is the H-1B. Your amendments will help prepare the H-1B visa for this enormous increase in demand by ensuring that only legitimate companies, requiring skilled workers that can't be found in the United States, have access to an H-1B.

Thank you for your foresight in introducing these amendments, and for looking out for technology workers, both American and non-American.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas M. Coughlin".

Thomas Coughlin
2019 IEEE-USA President