



NATIONAL COUNCIL OF CHAIN RESTAURANTS
of the > National Retail Federation
NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Contact: Kathy Grannis or Ellen Davis (202) 783-7971

grannisk@nrf.com or davise@nrf.com

Senate Passage of Immigration Bill Important Step Toward Change, According to National Council of Chain Restaurants --NCCR Supports Increased Border Security and Temporary Worker Program--

Washington D.C., May 25, 2006 – Today’s Senate passage of S. 2611, the Comprehensive Immigration Reform Act of 2006, is a step in the right direction, according to the National Council of Chain Restaurants, a division of the National Retail Federation. In addition to enhancing border security, the proposal would establish a new temporary worker program and provides undocumented immigrants with a process to earn legal residence here.

“The faulty immigration system currently in place prevents the chain restaurant industry from being able to access an adequate labor supply,” said Scott Vinson, Vice President of Government Affairs for NCCR. “Although this legislation is not perfect, it is a dramatic improvement which will enable chain restaurants and other businesses to hire the employees they desperately need to effectively run their companies and serve their customers.”

As a founding member of the Essential Worker Immigration Coalition, NCCR has been actively lobbying for immigration reform since 2000. Chain restaurants, which rely on immigrants as core members of their workforce, were some of the first to lobby members of Congress on the shortage of both semi-skilled and unskilled labor. NCCR has also been a vocal advocate of policies that would facilitate the employment of essential workers by U.S. companies that are unable to find Americans to do those jobs.

In a letter sent to members of the U.S. Senate last week, Vinson called the legislation “a thoughtful compromise that represents a middle road approach to one of the most vexing public policy challenges facing our nation today.”

The **National Council of Chain Restaurants** (NCCR), a division of the National Retail Federation (NRF), is a national trade association representing forty of the nation’s largest multi-unit, multi-state chain restaurant companies. These forty companies own and operate more than 50,000 restaurant facilities. Additionally, through franchise and licensing agreements, another 70,000 facilities are operated under their trademarks. In the aggregate, NCCR’s member companies and their franchisees employ more than 2.8 million Americans. For more information about NCCR, visit www.nccr.net. For more information about NRF, visit www.nrf.com

###