

Resolution Supporting Foreign Work Force Programs on Cape Cod

Whereas, Cape Cod's economy is deeply dependent on seasonal and year-round workers from outside the region, including many who come from abroad through as H-2B, and J1 guest worker visa programs, and

Whereas, these foreign workers fill critical roles in sectors such as hospitality, agriculture, construction, and food services, and are essential to the successful operation of local businesses, and

Whereas, Cape Cod businesses face significant challenges in recruiting and retaining sufficient workers, especially in the off-season, due to high housing costs, transportation barriers, and other local workforce shortages, and

Whereas, these workers contribute significantly to the region's economic vitality, as well as to the social and cultural fabric of the Cape Cod community, and

Whereas, many of these workers experience difficulties securing housing, navigating language barriers, utilizing transportation, and accessing basic health services, and

Whereas, a well-coordinated effort by local governments, businesses, and community organizations can ensure these workers are treated with dignity, respect, and fairness in both their work and living conditions,

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved that the Board of Regional Commissioners for Cape Cod Regional Government, also known as Barnstable County, supports and calls for:

Advocacy for increased access to visa programs that allow foreign workers to fill critical roles in Cape Cod's economy, and

Support for fair wages and benefits for foreign workers, ensuring that they are compensated equitably in relation to the local cost of living and the demands of their roles, and

Policies that address the availability of affordable housing for foreign workers, ensuring that they have access to suitable, safe living arrangements during their employment, and


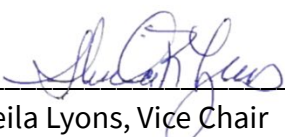

Measures to ensure accessible transportation options for foreign workers, particularly those living in areas away from major work sites, and

Strengthening partnerships between local businesses, government agencies, and nonprofit organizations to ensure the well-being and rights of foreign workers are upheld, and

Encouraging the creation of worker support networks to aid foreign workers in adjusting to life on Cape Cod and providing guidance on housing, transportation, legal services, and cultural integration.

Be It Further Resolved that the Board of Regional Commissioners will engage with state and federal representatives to advocate for programs and policies that support the continued flow of foreign workers and create a welcoming environment that values their contribution to Cape Cod's economy and communities.

Approved by the Board of Regional Commissioners on December 18, 2024

		
_____ Ronald Bergstrom, Chair	_____ Sheila Lyons, Vice Chair	_____ Mark Forest, Commissioner