



## Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce

PO Box 128, Point Roberts, WA 98281

### By Email

April 15, 2023

The Honorable Patty Murray  
United States Senator for Washington  
154 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

I hesitate contacting you as I know that there are many significant Federal and State issues requiring your attention. However, you have proven to be such a strong advocate for Point Roberts in the past that once again, we are hoping you can help us with a critical, time-sensitive issue.

Point Roberts formerly enjoyed Immigration H2-B status that allowed our businesses to hire foreign workers. A similar Immigration rule H2-A currently in effect, allows for foreign agricultural workers to be employed in the USA. However, H2-B status was arbitrarily cancelled without reason or explanation.

For many years under Immigration H2-B status, our businesses were able to employ non-citizens, i.e., Canadians, to work here in our service industries on a part-time basis during our busy seasons. This was critical to the health of our economy because of our geographical separation from mainland Washington State and our immediate proximity to Canada. H2-B status needs to be reinstated immediately to facilitate our economic survival. We currently have businesses that have been struggling to survive since the 19-month (March 2020 to October 2021) border shutdown. They are currently operating under severely restricted hours because they lack staff. With a busy Summer season approaching, our need for employees will continue to increase. We estimate that our businesses currently need 30 part-time employees and will double to 60 within a month. Due to the loss of local workers who moved back to mainland Washington during the pandemic, we currently have no workforce for these positions, and no-one will travel the long distance from Blaine or Bellingham across two international borders for this work.

Because of our unique exclave status, H2-B worked well here for many years and resulted in no loss of jobs to US residents. We respectfully request that for the sake of Point Roberts economic survival, the Federal Government reinstate Point Roberts' H2-B Federal Immigration status immediately.

Sincerely,

**Point Roberts Chamber of Commerce**

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