

For immediate release

Statement by Barbara McNeese, president of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce, on the U.S. Senate passage of comprehensive immigration reform legislation

(Pittsburgh – June 28, 2013) - “On behalf of the Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce we applaud the U.S. Senate’s passage of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013. As our region competes globally for talent, this bipartisan legislation advances the competitiveness of our economy and our values as a nation committed to freedom, entrepreneurship and diversity.

Thanks to the growing sectors of advanced manufacturing, energy, financial and business services, healthcare and life sciences and communications and information technology, the Pittsburgh region has recovered from the recent recession. The provisions in this legislation, including the expansion of H-1B skilled worker visas, will help build on this progress by attracting more highly skilled workers to southwestern Pennsylvania, which in turn will help grow our workforce and put more people to work.

The Greater Pittsburgh Chamber of Commerce has been working to advance comprehensive immigration reform through its participation in *Business for Skilled Worker Immigration*, a 50 member national coalition of regional chambers of commerce committed to reforming our nation’s immigration system. We will continue to work with this national coalition to support passage of the comprehensive immigration reform bill in the U.S. House of Representatives and ensure that we will have long-overdue immigration reforms that meet today's labor force needs.”

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