

In Bounds-

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Another argument for deportation is that they are taking jobs from our citizens and our citizens' children. What a bunch of hog wash. I don't believe there are many of "us" out there who aspire to work 9 months out of the year at a low level job in the agricultural industry or full time, year round at an entry service position in the hospitality trade.

Personally, I do not know of many parents who dream to have their children follow the crops when it is time to harvest.

Today I am preaching to the choir. All of you appreciate that we need to have a reliable work force in our industry to fill positions available due to the dynamics of our population. We appreciate that without them our jobs would be more challenging and the cost of doing business would skyrocket. The trickle down effect could very well ruin many businesses. More expensive labor, if they are available, would equate to a more expensive end product, a product some may not pay for if too high.

But here is the crux of the crisis. According to Senator Norm Coleman only one in eight phone calls or emails sent to him

about immigrant status request to have the law changed to accommodate those already in the country on an average day. That number decreases to one in one hundred for a change in the law when the issue is on the fire. It is time we get our nominated government leaders to fix the broken law.

The legislatures need to develop a plan to maintain our already existing population of suspect employees through an amnesty program which would include the identification of

everyone who is questionable in the work force. They must be allowed to pay their fair share and also a penalty to get the paper work rolling and introduce them into the system, our system of paying taxes and eventually becoming citizens. Border security would be paramount as well.

But of most importance to keep the price and costs associated with strawberries, golf, restaurants and entertainment low is communicating the

issue with our friends, family and society in general. Too many people are oblivious to the importance of our agricultural and hospitality labor infrastructure. A grass roots effort has to be started to prevent the looming crisis. The broken law must be fixed. If we don't start today, our tomorrows may never be as fun.

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We recently announced the addition of three employees to our team:

**Tom McCann,
Mark Poppitz and
Wolf Weber**

The Tessman Company has been serving the green industry since 1950. We have locations in St. Paul, Fargo and Sioux Falls, distributing products to the commercial turf, landscape, golf, greenhouse and nursery markets.

We are also proud to announce that Roger Tychsen has joined our Team!

Roger brings 8 years of industry sales experience and 20 years of vendor rep experience. He will serve the Fargo Market.

Roger's other credentials: International Sales Manager for the Par Ex Professional Products Division of Vigoro Industries.

To contact them, call our St. Paul office at 651-487-3850, Fargo office at 701-232-7238 or their cell phone number below—

- ▶ **Tom McCann:** 612-865-7650
- ▶ **Mark Poppitz:** 612-940-5727
- ▶ **Wolf Weber:** 612-325-5411
- ▶ **Roger Tychsen:** 218-841-4444

We look forward to helping Tom, Mark, Wolf and Roger serve your turf supply needs!