

The following article, "*Visa law causes tourism worker pinch*", was authored by **Jerome G. Grzeca** and published in the March 11, 2005 Editorial section of *The Business Journal*.

## **Visa law causes tourism worker pinch**

Regarding your focus on the Travel and Tourism Industry in the Feb. 25 issue, it is important to note that many Wisconsin businesses in the industry may be without large portions of their staff this season.

Many businesses in the travel and tourism industry rely upon the H-2B visa program to legally obtain temporary peak-season employees when they are unable to keep their business running during their peak seasons. Under current regulations, 66,000 H-2B visas are available each fiscal year for the entire United States. However, this year, this H-2B cap was officially reached on January 3, only three months into the fiscal year.

This means that those Wisconsin employers who need seasonal help in the spring and summer are unable to apply for the H-2B visas they need.

In February, the Save Small and Seasonal Business Act of 2005 was introduced into the U.S. Senate. This bill must be passed in order to provide a quick fix to this immediate problem for businesses that depend on the H-2B visa program.

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