

CORY GARDNER
COLORADO

SUITE SR-354
SENATE RUSSELL OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-5941

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION
ENERGY AND
NATURAL RESOURCES
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

February 4, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Perez
Office of the Secretary
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue NW, Room S-2018
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

I write to request an expedited resolution to the processing delays currently impacting applicants to the H-1B, H-2A, and H-2B visa programs and inquire as to the technical reasons such delays continue at the Department of Labor (DOL).

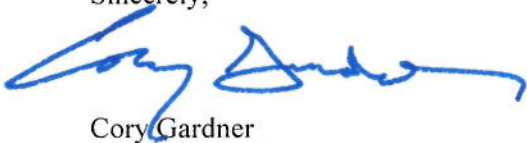
Over the last several days, my office has received a marked increase in letters and phone calls from constituents experiencing significant delays in the processing time of their applications for H-1B, H-2A, and H-2B visas. These visas are critical to the high-tech, agriculture, and tourism industries throughout my state and the labor provided through these programs helps fuel Colorado's economy. Delays in the processing of these visa applications is negatively impacting a wide range of industries and workers, from sheepherders to landscapers and hotel staff to programmers.

On January 27, 2016, DOL issued a statement claiming that "performance issues" with the underlying infrastructure in the iCERT Visa Portal System are to blame for the delayed processing times, but no updates regarding this issue have been published on DOL's website since that time. This lack of real-time information is unacceptable. Employers' business models throughout Colorado and the country rely on the efficient processing of these visas and reliable information from DOL.

As DOL works to restore the regular processing of these visas, my constituents deserve an answer as to the reason for such delays in the first place. Has DOL experienced similar issues with its network infrastructure in the past? If so, how long did significant processing delays continue to impact applications after the network was fully operational again? What efforts has DOL taken to ensure that a situation like this does not happen again? And finally, when does DOL expect the current "network infrastructure" issues will be resolved?

I look forward to a speedy resolution to these processing delays and a prompt response to my questions. If you have any questions regarding this letter, please contact my Washington, D.C. staff at (202) 224-5941.

Sincerely,



Cory Gardner
United States Senator