

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

September 19, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 202528

**RECEIVED**  
**By ESEC at 9:10 am, Sep 20, 2024**

Greetings, Secretary Mayorkas,

You granted relief in October 2022 to employers in the Northern Mariana Islands, whose timely applications to the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services for CW-1 worker visas were prevented because of a backlog processing Temporary Labor Certifications at the U.S. Department of Labor.

I must ask you to provide this same relief again.

The situation for employers today appears worse than in 2022. As I wrote you on September 29 of that year, there were Temporary Labor Certifications applications for 2,116 CW-1 workers pending with the Department of Labor. Today, applications for 3,038 are pending.<sup>1</sup>

You may be aware of the difficult economic circumstances the Marianas now face because tourism has never recovered from the pandemic shutdown. Any disruption in the workforce or additional administrative headaches for business only make a bad situation worse.

Having previously responded to processing delays by the Department of Labor as you did in 2022, I hope you may once again use your administrative authority to provide a grace period for Marianas employers, whose timely-filed applications for Temporary Labor Certifications remain pending delaying the employers' applications for CW-1 visas.

Should your staff have any questions about this request, please contact Bob Schwalbach, Chief of Staff, at bob.schwalbach@mail.house.gov or 202.309.5787.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

<sup>1</sup> Per U.S. Department of Labor Foreign Labor Application Gateway, <https://flag.dol.gov/processingtimes>, as of 9/14/24.

U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services  
*Office of the Director*  
Camp Springs, MD 20588-0009



**U.S. Citizenship  
and Immigration  
Services**

January 15, 2025

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sablan:

Thank you for your September 19, 2024 letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding petitions for CNMI-Only Nonimmigrant Transitional Workers (CW-1). I am responding on behalf of the Department.

U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) is aware of the recent delays at the Department of Labor. Under DHS regulations, a CW-1 petition may be filed only on behalf of a worker lawfully present in the CNMI; USCIS will not approve an extension of nonimmigrant status if the worker's nonimmigrant status expired before the petition is filed.

USCIS has discretionary authority to excuse a late filing for extension of status petitions in limited circumstances. USCIS may excuse late filings of petitions to extend CW-1 status (petitions that USCIS receives after the current CW-1 status expires) by employers in the CNMI who, through no fault of their own, have experienced delays filing CW-1 petitions with USCIS. USCIS will consider all late filings received on a case-by-case basis.

Thank you again for your letter and interest in this important issue. For additional assistance, please contact the USCIS Office of Legislative Affairs at (240) 721-3801.

Respectfully,

Ur M. Jaddou  
Director