

Instructions for Signing or Circulating the Petition to Abolish the H-1B Visa Program

To Sign the Petition from the Web

Simply print out a copy, sign it (leaving the other spots blank), and mail it to the address at the bottom.

To Gather Signatures (or, “Circulate” the Petition)

Print out a copy and make photocopies of the print-out. You can always make fresh originals from the Web.

For some reason, people dislike being the only signature on a page. In order to invite signatures, you should sign the page first. The duplication of your name on multiple pages will be weeded out when the petition is tabulated, so that the number of signatures is not incorrectly reported or inflated.

Another strategy is to have a stack of petition pages. Always present a petition with signatures on it, even one *full* of signatures, to the person who has shown an interest in the petition. Flip to a new page only after the person has expressed a willingness to sign. Usually this works, but even here you might have to sign the fresh page yourself before the other person is willing to sign.

Another tip is to let people know that you will be circulating the petition tomorrow or the next day. Some people simply need time to think about whether to sign. Also, you might wish to hand them a copy of the Petition Text (in poster form), so that they can ponder on their own time whether they agree with the text well enough to be able to sign.

Remember that people have a right to sign and a right not to sign. You may wish to look at the Fact Sheet on this site so as better to be able to field questions about the H-1B Visa Program. If you have yourself been laid off or have other first-hand knowledge about the technical job market in this country, you may wish to bring that in as well. But in the end you do not have to be an expert or a know-it-all to circulate this petition.

When you have a stack of petitions you want to be processed, mail them to the address at the bottom. Never be afraid to mail in partiall filled petitions. It is the signatures, not the paper, that is precious.

You may continue circulating petitions as long as you like. Not just in 1990, but in each and every year since, Congress has instituted expansion after expansion to the provisions of immigration into American technical job markets. The result is now so bad that the high-tech industry can lay off hundreds of Americans a day from these professions without batting an eyelash. A sustained response will be needed to restore these job markets back to something reasonable.