



CONTACT:

Erik Noriega
Manager, Communications
(713) 844-3663 – Office
(832) 657-4613 – Mobile

Micah Hirshfield
Vice President, Communications
(713) 844-3642 – Office
(713) 899-2395 – Mobile

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

September 30, 2010

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP PRESIDENT TESTIFIES BEFORE HOUSE SUBCOMMITTEE ON IMMIGRATION

HOUSTON – A bipartisan effort in Congress will be required if an equitable solution to the immigration crisis facing the U.S. is to be found, said Jeff Moseley, GHP President and CEO, during testimony to a congressional subcommittee today. Failure to do so could undermine the national economy in more ways than one, he added.

“We know that a careful balanced bill cannot pass Congress unless it has strong support from both political parties and the American public,” Moseley said. “Getting this right is in the national interest. It is in our economic interest, and it is the right thing to do.”

Continuing along the current path will be detrimental to the country’s economy, Moseley said. One reason is the brain drain that results when foreign-born students, who have completed higher degrees at our universities, are made to return home as a result of visa shortage instead of being allowed to enter the national workforce.

“Once home they find jobs with companies competing with the U.S. in the global market,” Moseley said. “In effect, we are training our competitors’ work force.”

In addition, the retirement of the baby boomer generation will leave a gaping hole in the American workforce in the next few years.

“Even in today’s economic climate, our workers are retiring faster than we can replace them, unless we hire immigrants,” Moseley said.

In addition to Moseley, New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg and News Corp chairman and CEO Rupert Murdoch also testified before the Subcommittee on Immigration, Citizenship, Refugees, Border Security, and International Law.

Beto Cardenas, executive counsel to Americans for Immigration Reform (AIR), a non-profit organization founded by a GHP task force, joined Moseley during the procedures. The purpose of AIR is to build a broad national coalition in favor of immigration reform.

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

houston.org

1200 SMITH, SUITE 700, HOUSTON, TX 77002 | PHONE: 713-844-3600 | FAX: 713-844-0200
AUSTIN | BRAZORIA | CHAMBERS | FORT BEND | GALVESTON | HARRIS | LIBERTY | MONTGOMERY | SAN JACINTO | WALLER



Moseley responded to critics who claim that immigrants are a drain to the national economy with several facts:

- Immigrants are 30 percent more likely to start a business than non-immigrants, and they represent 16.7 percent of all business owners in the U.S., making significant contributions to business income. *Small Business Research Summary of the SBA Office of Advocacy, 2008*
- Because immigrant workers tend to “complement” rather than compete with native workers for jobs, they contribute to productivity. That, in turn, means higher wages for native workers. *University of California, Davis study, 2006; confirmed by White House Council of Economic Advisors.*
- Roughly 90 percent of native-born workers experience gains from immigration – and these wages total between \$30 billion and \$80 billion a year. *Council of Economic Advisors, 2007*
- Between 50 and 75 percent of undocumented workers pay federal, state, and local taxes. *The Perryman Group.*
- If all undocumented workers were removed from the U.S. economy, the immediate effect would be the loss of 8.1 million jobs. *The Perryman Group.*

“The answer is not to send these workers home, but to give them recognized legal status so that their contributions to the economy can be recorded, and they can be taxed for public services like every other member of the community,” Moseley said.

“What the business community requires... what Americans for Immigration Reform needs is less rhetoric and a common sense solution that both parties can support,” Moseley said. “We all want leaders that are willing to share that truth rather than having the primary source of information be the entertainment industry that inflames, rather than explains, the reality and complexity of the immigration issue.”

###

**For a full transcript of Jeff Moseley’s testimony, please email
Erik Noriega at enoriega@houston.org**

The Greater Houston Partnership is the primary advocate of Houston’s business community and is dedicated to building regional economic prosperity. It represents 10 counties: Austin, Brazoria, Chambers, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Liberty, Montgomery, San Jacinto and Waller. With more than 2,100 Member organizations, GHP represents approximately one-fifth of the region’s work force. Visit GHP at houston.org.

GREATER HOUSTON PARTNERSHIP

houston.org

1200 SMITH, SUITE 700, HOUSTON, TX 77002 | PHONE: 713-844-3600 | FAX: 713-844-0200
AUSTIN | BRAZORIA | CHAMBERS | FORT BEND | GALVESTON | HARRIS | LIBERTY | MONTGOMERY | SAN JACINTO | WALLER