

May 13, 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The United Fresh Produce Association strongly supports your efforts to provide immigration reform for the agriculture industry by introducing the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits and Security Act of 2009 (AgJobs).

As you know, the fresh produce industry in the United States is heavily dependent upon foreign workers to supplement its labor needs. However, our antiquated system of immigration laws and regulations has not kept pace with those needs.

American producers are now faced with a variety of conflicting laws and regulations that are incapable of responding to today's marketplace. These conflicts have led to legal jeopardy for employers and laborers, shortages of workers, reduced economic activity and degrading competitiveness in the global marketplace.

Therefore, immigration reform for agriculture is essential to stem this crisis. AgJobs is a widely-supported, comprehensive package of reforms intended to meet that objective. It includes reasonable measures to ensure a predictable, documented workforce, along with enhanced security and enforcement provisions.

We sincerely appreciate your interest in addressing this crisis in American agriculture and the fresh produce industry in particular. Thank you for your efforts in introducing this important legislation.

Sincerely,



Tom Stenzel
President and CEO