



May 22, 2015

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman, Committee on Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC) Steering Committee, we would like to thank you for your request for feedback on the Agricultural Guestworker Act which was passed out of the Judiciary Committee in the 113th Congress. The AWC sincerely appreciates the opportunity to have met with you and your staff over the past two years in the interest of finding a workable solution for agriculture. Most recently we are pleased to have submitted responses to the questionnaire, as well as provided input in potential legislative text.

As you know, there is no other industry with greater workforce demographic challenges and foreign labor reliance than agriculture. In order for farmers and ranchers to continue producing food and products that Americans depend on, they must have access to a stable, legal workforce.

With the possibility of mandatory E-verify a new, workable agricultural worker program and a solution that addresses our current workforce is more important than ever. Immigration enforcement without a program flexible enough to address the labor needs of American agriculture will have a devastating impact on our industry, resulting in many U.S. farmers, their farm employees, and many in their rural communities losing their livelihoods, as well as an overall decrease in U.S. agricultural production.

The AWC remains committed to working with you and your committee to achieve a solution that addresses both our current agricultural workforce and a new, flexible agricultural worker visa program that will offer long term stability within the industry. We look forward to the opportunity to help craft legislation that is responsive to the present and future needs of American agriculture.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation

AmericanHort

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

National Council of Agricultural Employers

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Milk Producers Federation

USA Farmers

U.S. Apple Association

United Fresh Produce Association

Western Growers Association

Western United Dairymen

CC: The Honorable John Boehner, Speaker

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy, Majority Leader