

October xx, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

The undersigned groups, representing a broad cross section of agriculture and its allies, urge you to advance the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. xxxx) through the House to address the labor crisis facing American agriculture. A stable, legal workforce is needed to ensure farmers and ranchers have the ability to continue producing an abundant, safe, and affordable food supply.

The effects of agriculture's critical shortage of labor reach far beyond the farm gate, negatively impacting our economic competitiveness, local economies, and jobs. Economists have found that every farm worker engaged in high-value, labor-intensive crop and livestock production sustains two to three off-farm jobs. As foreign producers take advantage of our labor shortage and gain market share, America will export not only our food production but also thousands of these farm-dependent jobs. Securing a reliable and skilled workforce is essential, not only for the agricultural industry but for the U.S. economy as a whole.

The House must pass legislation that preserves agriculture's experienced workforce by allowing current farm workers to earn legal status. For future needs, legislation must include an agricultural worker visa program that provides access to a legal and reliable workforce moving forward. This visa program needs to be more accessible, predictable, and flexible to meet the needs of producers, including those with year-round labor needs, such as dairy and livestock which currently do not have meaningful access to any program.

While the bill does include a few provisions that raise significant concerns for the agricultural community, we are committed to working together throughout the legislative process to fully address these issues. It is vital to move the Farm Workforce Modernization Act (H.R. xxxx) through the House as a significant step in working to meet the labor needs of agriculture, both now and in the future.

Sincerely,

African-American Farmers of California
Agri-Mark, Inc.
Alabama Farmers Cooperative

Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association
American Mushroom Institute
American Pistachio Growers
American Seed Trade Association
AmericanHort
Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association
Arizona Nursery Association
Arkansas Rice Growers Association
Associated Milk Producers Inc.
Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers
AZ Farm & Ranch Group
Bipartisan Policy Center Action
Bongards' Creameries
California Ag Irrigation Association
California Alfalfa and Forage Association
California Apple Commission
California Avocado Commission
California Bean Shippers Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Canning Peach Association
California Cherry Growers and Industry Association
California Citrus Mutual
California Dairies, Inc.
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Association
California Grain and Feed Association
California League of Food Producers
California Pear Growers
California Seed Association
California State Beekeepers Association
California State Floral Association
California Sweet Potato Council
California Warehouse Association
California Wheat Growers Association
California Women for Agriculture
Central Valley Ag
Cherry Marketing Institute
Chobani
CoBank
Colorado Dairy Farmers
Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association
Colorado Potato Legislative Association
Cooperative Milk Producers Association
Cooperative Network
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
Dairy Producers of New Mexico

Del Mar Food Products, Corp.
Driscoll's
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
Empire State Potato Growers
Far West Agribusiness Association
Farm Credit East
Farm Credit Services of America
Farm Credit West
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative
First District Association
Florida Blueberry Growers Association
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
Florida Nursery, Growers, and Landscape Association
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
Florida Tomato Exchange
Food Northwest
Food Producers of Idaho
Foremost Farms USA
Fresno County Farm Bureau
Frontier Farm Credit
Fruit Growers Marketing Association
Fruit Growers Supply
Georgia Green Industry Association
Glanbia Nutritionals
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
GROWMARK
Gulf Citrus Growers Association
Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Commission
Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Growers Association
Idaho Apple Commission
Idaho Association of Commerce and Industry
Idaho Association of Highway Districts
Idaho Association of Soil Conservation Districts
Idaho Bankers Association
Idaho Cattleman's Association
Idaho Chamber Alliance
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Idaho Eastern Oregon Seed Association
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Grower Shipper Association
Idaho Hop Growers
Idaho Milk Products
Idaho Mint Growers Association
Idaho Noxious Weed Control Association

Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association
Idaho Onion Growers Association
Idaho Potato Commission
Idaho State Grange
Idaho Water Users Association
Idaho Wool Growers
Idahoan Foods LLC
Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association
Illinois Green Industry Association
International Dairy Food Association
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Iowa State Dairy Association
J.R. Simplot Company
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Dairy Association
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Lone Star Milk Producers
Madera County Farm Bureau
Maine Landscape and Nursery Association
Maine Potato Board
Maryland & Virginia Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Maryland Nursery, Landscape, & Greenhouse Association
Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.
MBG Marketing
Merced County Farm Bureau
Michigan Agri-Business Association
Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board
Michigan Apple Association
Michigan Bean Shippers
Michigan Cider Association
Michigan Greenhouse Grower Council
Michigan Nursery & Landscape Association
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan State Horticultural Society
Midwest Dairy Coalition
Mid-West Dairymen's Company
Milk Producers Council
Milk Producers of Idaho
Minnesota Area II Potato Council
Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association
Missouri Rice Research and Merchandising Council
Montana Nursery & Landscape Association
Monterey County (CA) Farm Bureau
Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative Association
National All-Jersey

National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Council of Agricultural Employers
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Farmers Union
National Immigration Forum
National Milk Producers Federation
National Onion Association
National Potato Council
National Watermelon Association
Nebraska State Dairy Association
New American Economy
New York Apple Association
New York State Flower Industries
New York State Vegetable Growers Association
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association
Nisei Farmers League
North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association
North Carolina Potato Association
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives
Northeast Dairy Producers Association
Northern Plains Potato Growers Association
Northern Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
Northwest Ag Co-op Council
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold
Northwest Horticultural Council
Ohio Apple Marketing Program
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association
Olive Growers Council of California
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers Cooperative Association
Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Potato Commission
Pacific Coast Producers
Pacific Egg and Poultry Association
Pacific Seed Association
Pennsylvania Co-operative Potato Growers
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association
Plant California Alliance
POM Wonderful
Porterville Citrus
Potato Growers of America
Potato Growers of Idaho
Potato Growers of Michigan
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Premier Milk Inc.

Produce Marketing Association
Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania
RBI Packing LLC
Reiter Affiliated Companies
Richard Bagdasarian, Inc.
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
Seneca Foods Corporation
Sierra Citrus Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Dairy Producers
South East Dairy Farmers Association
Southeast Milk Inc.
Southern States Cooperative
St. Albans Cooperative Creamery, Inc.
Stanislaus County Farm Bureau
Summer Prize Frozen Foods.
Sun-Maid Growers of California
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Association of Dairymen
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association
Tillamook County Creamery Association
Tree Top, Inc.
Tulare County Farm Bureau
U.S. Apple Association
U.S. Rice Producers Association
United Dairymen of Arizona
United Egg Producers
United Fresh Produce Association
United Onions, USA
United Potato Growers of America
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Utah Horticulture Society
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Ventura Pacific
Virginia Apple Growers Association
Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
Virginia State Dairymen's Association
Visalia Citrus Packing Group, Inc.
Washington Growers League
Washington State Dairy Federation
Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association
Washington State Potato Commission

Washington State Tree Fruit Association
WA Wine Institute
Wawona Frozen Foods
West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
Western Growers Association
Western States Dairy Producers Association
WineAmerica
Wine Institute
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association
Wonderful Citrus
Wonderful Orchards

cc: U.S. House of Representatives