



June 14, 2013

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein
United States Senate
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

The United States Senate took a strong and bipartisan stand this week on procedural votes to move to consideration of S. 744, the Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act. The bill would bring the promise of solutions, relief, and opportunity to many; that promise is especially meaningful for America's farmers and farm workers.

The agricultural provisions of S. 744, found in Title II, Subpart B, reflect the landmark agreement reached in April between the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), the unified national coalition of agricultural employers, and the United Farm Workers (UFW). The agricultural agreement is the product of a serious, months-long negotiation in which both sides had to make concessions in order to arrive at a common resolution. The coalition supporting this agreement includes farmers and farm workers from every region of the country. Today, we stand together in firm conviction that the agricultural reforms contained in the bill present a good, fair, and balanced solution to the untenable situation farmers and farm workers face now, and one that would mean a brighter future.

We urge your support for this agricultural agreement and for S. 744. We need a solution now to our broken immigration system. S. 744 creates a workable legalization program that provides farm workers an opportunity to earn permanent legal status by continuing to work in agriculture, and a new temporary worker program that will be principally managed by the Department of Agriculture and is streamlined to provide a stable agricultural workforce well into the future without abandoning critical labor protections for US workers. The very vitality of our agricultural system depends on congressional action to affirm this legislation.

We look forward to the debate in the Senate over this critical national issue and we will work to maintain the careful balance we have achieved. Jointly we will heartily support improvements reflecting the spirit of the agreement that are consented to by both the UFW and the AWC. However, we will also oppose any amendments that risk the intricate balance of the agreement.

Together we look forward to working closely with you in the interest of seeing meaningful immigration reform enacted and signed into law this summer. We urge you to support S. 744.

Sincerely,

Agriculture Workforce Coalition

United Farm Workers