



August 1, 2013

The Honorable John A. Boehner  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Speaker Boehner and Minority Leader Pelosi:

The undersigned groups, representing a broad cross section of agriculture, urge you to support passage of immigration legislation 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 create an agricultural worker visa program that provides access to a legal and reliable workforce moving forward. This visa program needs to be market-based and have the flexibility to meet the needs of producers, including those with year-round labor needs, such as dairy and livestock. The agreement reached by agriculture employers and worker groups earlier this year helps meet the labor needs of agriculture, both now and in the future.

It is vital for the House to move legislation forward so that Congress can enact meaningful immigration reform this year.

Sincerely,

Agricultural Council of California  
Agricultural Retailers Association  
Agri-Mark Dairy Cooperative  
Alabama Farmers Cooperative  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Farm Bureau Federation  
American Feed Industry Association  
American Honey Producers Association  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Nursery & Landscape Association  
American Sheep Industry Association  
American Sugar Cane League  
Arizona Farm Bureau  
Aurora Dairy  
Calcot, Ltd.  
California Association of Winegrape Growers  
California Avocado Commission  
California Canning Peach Association  
California Date Commission  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Fig Advisory Board  
California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
California Strawberry Commission  
California Walnut Commission  
California Women for Agriculture  
CoBank  
Colorado Farm Bureau  
Cooperative Network  
Dairy Farmers of America  
Dairylea Cooperative, Inc.  
Farm Credit Bank of Texas  
Farm Credit East  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association  
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association (FNGLA)  
Georgia Green Industry Association  
GROWMARK, Inc.  
Gulf Citrus Growers Association  
Idaho Dairymen's Association  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
Indiana Farm Bureau  
Kansas Cooperative Council

Land O'Lakes, Inc.  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation  
MBG Marketing/ Michigan Blueberry Growers Association  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Processing Apple Growers  
Minnesota Farm Bureau  
National Cotton Council  
National Council of Agricultural Employers  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grape Cooperative Association, Inc.  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Peach Council  
National Potato Council  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation  
New Jersey Farm Bureau  
New York Farm Bureau  
North American Blueberry Council  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
Northwest Dairy Association  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
Oregon Association of Nurseries  
Oregon Cherry Growers, Inc.  
Pacific Coast Producers  
Pacific Ridge  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Society of American Florists  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Dakota Wheat Growers  
South East Dairy Farmers Association  
State Agriculture and Rural Leaders (SARL)  
Sunkist Growers  
Sun-Maid Growers of California  
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.  
Sweet Potato Council of California  
Teays River Investments  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
Texas Cotton Ginners Association  
Texas Farm Bureau  
Texas International Produce Association  
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association  
Texas Vegetable Association  
The National Grange  
U.S. Apple Association  
United Dairymen of Arizona

United Fresh Produce Association  
United Producers, Inc.  
USA Farmers  
Valley Fig Growers  
Washington Farm Bureau  
Washington State Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
Welch's Foods Inc., A Cooperative  
Western AgCredit  
Western Growers Association  
Western United Dairymen  
Yankee Farm Credit  
Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association

cc: U.S. House of Representatives