

November 18, 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. 5038) 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. 5038) 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  
AgCountry Farm Credit Services  
AgriBank FCB

Agribusiness Henderson County (AgHC)  
Agricultural Council of California  
Agri-Mark, Inc.  
Alabama Farmers Cooperative  
Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association  
Almond Alliance of California  
Amalgamated Sugar Company LLC  
American AgCredit  
American Agri-Women  
American Beekeeping Federation  
American Mushroom Institute  
American Pistachio Growers  
American Seed Trade Association  
AmericanHort  
Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association  
Arizona Landscape Contractors Association  
Arizona Nursery Association  
Arkansas Rice Growers Association  
Associated Milk Producers Inc.  
Association of Virginia Potato and Vegetable Growers  
Aurora Organic Dairy  
AZ Farm & Ranch Group  
Battlefield Farms, Inc.  
Bipartisan Policy Center Action  
Bongards' Creameries  
Butte County Farm Bureau  
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 Federation  
California Fig Advisory Board  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Grain and Feed Association  
California League of Food Producers  
California Pear Growers  
California Prune Board  
California Seed Association  
California State Beekeepers Association  
California State Floral Association

California Sweet Potato Council  
California Tomato Growers Association  
California Walnut Commission  
California Warehouse Association  
California Wheat Growers Association  
California Women for Agriculture  
Cayuga Milk Ingredients  
Central Valley Ag  
Cherry Marketing Institute  
Chobani  
Clif Bar & Company  
CoBank  
Colorado Dairy Farmers  
Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association  
Colorado Potato Legislative Association  
Compeer Financial  
Cooperative Milk Producers Association  
Cooperative Network  
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.  
Dairy Producers of New Mexico  
Dairy Producers of Utah  
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 Illinois  
Farm Credit Services of America  
Farm Credit West  
FarmFirst Dairy Cooperative  
First District Association  
Florida Agri-Women  
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  
Grapeman Farms  
GreenStone Farm Credit Services  
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California  
GROWMARK  
Gulf Citrus Growers Association  
Hop Growers of Washington  
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 Sugarbeet Growers Association  
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  
Kanza Cooperative Associaton  
Kings County Farm Bureau  
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  
Mendocino County Farm Bureau  
Merced County Farm Bureau  
Michigan Agri-Business Association  
Michigan Apple Association  
Michigan Asparagus Advisory Board  
Michigan Bean Shippers  
Michigan Cider Association  
Michigan Greenhouse Grower Council  
Michigan Milk Producers Association  
Michigan Nursery & Landscape 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  
Napa County Farm Bureau  
National All-Jersey  
National Association of Produce Market Managers  
National Council of Agricultural Employers  
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives  
National Farmers Union  
National Grange  
National Immigration Forum  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Onion Association  
National Potato Council  
National Watermelon Association  
Nebraska State Dairy Association  
New American Economy  
New England Apple Council  
New England Farmers Union  
New York Apple Association

New York Farm Bureau Federation  
New York State Berry Growers Association  
New York State Flower Industries  
New York State Vegetable Growers Association  
Nezperce Prairie Grass Growers Association  
Nisei Farmers League  
North American Blueberry Council  
North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association  
North Carolina Potato Association  
Northeast Dairy Farmers Cooperatives  
Northeast Dairy Foods Association, Inc.  
Northeast Dairy Producers Association  
Northern Plains Potato Growers Association  
Northern Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association  
Northwest Ag Co-op Council  
Northwest Dairy Association/Darigold  
Northwest Farm Credit Services  
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  
Orange County Farm Bureau  
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.  
Riverside County Farm Bureau

Rocky Mountain Farmers Union  
San Diego County Farm Bureau  
San Mateo County Farm Bureau  
Santa Clara County Farm Bureau  
Santa Cruz County Farm Bureau  
Scioto Cooperative Milk Producers' Association  
Select Milk Producers, Inc.  
Seneca Foods Corporation  
Sierra Citrus Association  
Snake River Sugar Company  
Solano County Farm Bureau  
Sonoma County Farm Bureau  
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  
State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania  
Summer Prize Frozen Foods.  
Sunkist Growers  
Sun-Maid Growers of California  
Sunsweet Growers, Inc.  
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association  
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council  
Texas Association of Dairymen  
Texas Citrus Mutual  
Texas International Produce Association  
Texas Nursery & Landscape Association  
The National Association of State Departments of Agriculture  
The SF Market and San Francisco Produce Association  
Tillamook County Creamery Association  
Tree Top, Inc.  
Tulare County Farm Bureau  
U.S. Apple Association  
U.S. Rice Producers Association  
United Ag  
United Dairymen of Arizona  
United Egg Producers  
United Fresh Produce Association  
United Onions, USA  
United Potato Growers of America  
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.  
Utah Farmers Union  
Utah Horticulture Society

Valley Fig Growers  
Ventura County Agricultural Association  
Ventura Pacific  
Vermont Dairy Producers Alliance  
Virginia Apple Growers Association  
Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association  
Virginia State Dairymen's Association  
Visalia Citrus Packing Group, Inc.  
WA Wine Institute  
Washington Growers League  
Washington State Dairy Federation  
Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association  
Washington State Potato Commission  
Washington State Tree Fruit Association  
Wawona Frozen Foods  
West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association  
Western Growers Association  
Western States Dairy Producers Association  
Western United Dairies  
Wine Institute  
WineAmerica  
Wisconsin Dairy Business Association  
Wisconsin Potato & Vegetable Growers Association  
Wonderful Citrus  
Wonderful Orchards  
Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association

cc: U.S. House of Representatives