

September, 2007

Dear Member of Congress:

The undersigned organizations and individuals, representing a broad cross-section of America, join together to ask you to support enactment of the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits and Security Act of 2007 (AgJOBS, S. 340 and H.R. 371). This landmark bipartisan legislation would achieve historic reforms to our nation's labor and immigration laws as they pertain to agriculture. The legislation reflects years of negotiations on complex and contentious issues among employer and worker representatives and leaders in Congress.

A growing number of our leaders in Congress, as well as the President, recognize that our nation's immigration policy is flawed and that, from virtually every perspective, the status quo is untenable. America needs reforms that are compassionate, realistic and economically sensible – reforms that also enhance the rule of law and contribute to national security. AgJOBS represents the coming together of historic adversaries in a rare opportunity to achieve reforms supportive of these goals, as well as our nation's agricultural productivity and food security.

AgJOBS represents a balanced solution for American agriculture, a critical element of a comprehensive solution, and one that can be enacted now with broad bipartisan support. For these reasons, we join together to encourage the Congress to enact promptly the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007, S. 340 and H.R.371.

Thank you.

AGRICULTURE COALITION FOR IMMIGRATION REFORM
AGRI-MARK INC.
AMERICAN AGRI-WOMEN
AMERICAN COLLEGE OF OCCUPATIONAL & ENVIRONMENTAL MEDICINE
AMERICAN FARMLAND TRUST
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR AND CONGRESS OF INDUSTRIAL ORGANIZATIONS AFL-CIO
AMERICAN FEDERATION OF STATE, COUNTY AND MUNICIPAL EMPLOYEES
AMERICAN FRIENDS SERVICE COMMITTEE
AMERICAN FROZEN FOOD INSTITUTE
AMERICAN GI FORUM OF THE UNITED STATES
AMERICAN HORSE COUNCIL
AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE
AMERICAN MUSHROOM INSTITUTE
AMERICAN NURSERY & LANDSCAPE ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN SEED TRADE ASSOCIATION
AMERICAN SHEEP INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
ASIAN AMERICAN JUSTICE CENTER
ASSOCIATION OF FARMWORKER OPPORTUNITY PROGRAMS
CATHOLIC LEGAL IMMIGRATION NETWORK, INC. (CLINIC)
CENTER FOR COMMUNITY CHANGE
CLAYTON YEUTTER, FORMER SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE AND U.S. TRADE REPRESENTATIVE
COUNCIL OF NORTHEAST FARMER COOPERATIVES
DAIRY FARMERS OF AMERICA
DAIRYLEA COOPERATIVE, INC.
ENVIRONMENTAL WORKING GROUP

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH IN AMERICA
 FARM LABOR ORGANIZATION COMMITTEE, AFL-CIO (FLOC)
 FARMWORKER JUSTICE
 FEDERATION OF EMPLOYERS AND WORKERS OF AMERICA
 FIRST PIONEER FARM CREDIT (NY, CT, MA, NJ, NH AND RI)
 GENERAL COMMISSION ON RELIGION AND RACE, THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 HOUSING ASSISTANCE COUNCIL
 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
 IRRIGATION ASSOCIATION
 JESUIT CONFERENCE USA
 JEWISH COUNCIL FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS
 LABOR COUNCIL FOR LATIN AMERICAN ADVANCEMENT
 LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE ON CIVIL RIGHTS
 THE LEAGUE OF UNITED LATIN AMERICAN CITIZENS
 LUTHERAN IMMIGRATION AND REFUGEE SERVICE
 MEXICAN AMERICAN LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND
 MIDWEST ASSOCIATION OF FARMWORKER ORGANIZATIONS (MAFO)
 MIDWEST FOOD PROCESSORS ASSOCIATION
 MIGRANT CLINICIANS NETWORK
 MIGRANT LEGAL ACTION PROGRAM
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY HEALTH CENTERS, INC
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LATINO ELECTED AND APPOINTED OFFICIALS
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DEPARTMENTS OF AGRICULTURE
 NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE DIRECTORS OF MIGRANT EDUCATION
 NATIONAL CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE CONFERENCE
 NATIONAL CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION
 NATIONAL COMMUNITY FOR LATINO LEADERSHIP NCLL
 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF AGRICULTURAL EMPLOYERS
 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF FARMER COOPERATIVES
 NATIONAL COUNCIL OF LA RAZA
 NATIONAL FARM WORKER MINISTRY
 NATIONAL FARMERS UNION
 NATIONAL FARMWORKER ALLIANCE
 NATIONAL GRAPE COOPERATIVE
 NATIONAL GREENHOUSE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION
 NATIONAL IMMIGRATION FORUM
 NATIONAL IMMIGRATION LAW CENTER
 NATIONAL KOREAN AMERICAN SERVICE & EDUCATION CONSORTIUM
 NATIONAL LEGAL AID AND DEFENDER ASSOCIATION
 NATIONAL MILK PRODUCERS FEDERATION
 NATIONAL POTATO COUNCIL
 NATIONAL THOROUGHBRED RACING ASSOCIATION
 NATIONAL WATERMELON ASSOCIATION, INC.
 NEW ENGLAND APPLE COUNCIL
 NEW ENGLAND NURSERY ASSOCIATION
 NISEI FARMERS LEAGUE
 NORTH AMERICAN HORTICULTURAL SUPPLY ASSOCIATION
 NORTHERN PLAINS POTATO GROWERS
 NORTHEAST DAIRY PRODUCERS ASSOCIATION
 NORTHWEST GROWERS ASSOCIATION
 NORTHWEST FARM CREDIT SERVICES
 NORTHWEST HORTICULTURAL COUNCIL
 OFA-AN ASSOCIATION OF FLORICULTURE PROFESSIONALS

OXFAM AMERICA
 PACIFIC NORTHWEST CHRISTMAS TREE ASSOCIATION
 PERENNIAL PLANT ASSOCIATION
 PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA) WASHINGTON OFFICE
 PRODUCE MARKETING ASSOCIATION
 SERVICE EMPLOYEES INTERNATIONAL UNION (SEIU)
 SNAKE RIVER FARMERS ASSOCIATION (ID, IL, OH, UT)
 SOCIETY OF AMERICAN FLORISTS
 SOUTHEASTERN DAIRY COOPERATIVES
 SOUTHERN NURSERY ASSOCIATION
 SOUTHERN POVERTY LAW CENTER
 SOUTHERN STATES COOPERATIVE
 TURFGRASS PRODUCERS INTERNATIONAL
 UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION OF CONGREGATIONS
 UNITED AGRIBUSINESS LEAGUE
 INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE AND AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT
 WORKERS OF AMERICA (UAW)
 UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST, JUSTICE AND WITNESS MINISTRIES
 UNITED EGG PRODUCERS
 UNITED FARM WORKERS
 UNITED FARM WORKERS FOUNDATION
 UNITED FOOD AND COMMERCIAL WORKERS INTERNATIONAL UNION
 UNITED FRESH PRODUCE ASSOCIATION
 UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, GENERAL BOARD OF CHURCH AND SOCIETY
 U.S. APPLE ASSOCIATION
 UNITED STATES CONFERENCE OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS
 UNITED STATES EQUESTRIAN FEDERATION
 WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF NURSERYMEN
 WESTERN GROWERS
 WESTERN UNITED DAIRYMEN
 WHOLESALE NURSERY GROWERS OF AMERICA
 WILLIAM C. VELASQUEZ INSTITUTE
 WINEGRAPE GROWERS OF AMERICA
 WINE INSTITUTE
 WOMEN'S DIVISION - UNITED METHODIST CHURCH
 WORKING AMERICA, AFL-CIO
 YANKEE FARM CREDIT (VT, NH AND NY)

[Over 700 State and Regional groups also signed this letter but are omitted here for space reasons.]



CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

R. BRUCE JOSTEN
EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT
GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS

1615 H STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20062-2000
202/463-5310

October 16, 2007

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE UNITED STATES SENATE:

The United States Chamber of Commerce, the world's largest business federation representing more than three million businesses and organizations of every size, sector, and region, supports S. 340 and H.R. 371, the "Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007 (AgJOBS)."

The Chamber is steadfast in its support for a comprehensive solution to fixing America's broken immigration system and believes that AgJOBS is a step towards that goal and one that can be taken now. One of the bill's most important attributes is that it provides a reasonable mechanism for the most experienced, but unauthorized agricultural workers to earn legal status subject to strict conditions.

Agriculture is a sector that is highly sensitive to foreign competition. Forcing much of the United States' agricultural production offshore through an enforcement-only approach to immigration policy is resulting in significant loss of American jobs and leaving the U.S. less secure. In the United States the agriculture sector is the most reliant on the foreign-born labor supply. However, each farmworker sustains jobs in the upstream and downstream economy—equipment, supplies and services, packaging and distribution, lending and insurance. Most of these jobs will go where the production goes. Failure to enact good immigration reform now is simply bad for business, bad for the economy, and bad for U.S. workers.

The bipartisan AgJOBS is the fruit of years of hard work by business and labor, conservatives and liberals, Republicans and Democrats alike. The Chamber urges your support for enactment of AgJOBS, this year.

Sincerely,



R. Bruce Josten