

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