



## AMERICANS *for* TAX REFORM

12 May 2009

The Honorable Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senate  
331 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein:

On behalf of Americans for Tax Reform (ATR), representing millions of taxpaying Americans nationwide, I wish to thank you and offer our support for your introduction of the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act of 2009 (AgJOBS).

This bill will make government more efficient by streamlining a very valuable and integral part of our nations workforce; the H-2A worker program. By eliminating a burdensome labor certification process, and streamlining the admission of H-2A workers, you are making the "American Dream" more attainable for hundreds of workers.

In a time of economic uncertainty, businesses will be able to utilize these workers to increase economic output and inject revenue into our current failing economy. The policies and programs you are proposing are exactly what this country needs to allow businesses to grow and prosper.

Some of the more positive aspects of this legislation are:

- Eliminates the labor certification process and replaces it with an expedited labor condition application
- Streamlines advertising and other domestic recruitment procedures while maintaining the obligation to seek and hire domestic workers
- Preserves the role of grower associations in the H-2A program
- Freezes the so-called "adverse effect wage rate" and eventually replaces it with a more market-based wage formula
- Provides the option of a housing allowance, in lieu of housing, under certain circumstances
- Clarifies and limits the right to sue for a limited number of H-2A violations to federal court with a mandatory mediation trigger prior to pursuit of litigation and preempts State contract claims

For these reasons and more, this piece of legislation is crucial for the agricultural industry to survive in the current economic environment.

Onward,

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