



October 2, 2017

Honorable Robert W. Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of American dairy farmers, we want to thank you for your efforts to address one of the most vexing problems facing our collective memberships: how to create a viable, legal framework to address the year-round labor needs of the dairy industry.

The Agriculture Guestworker Act (AG Act) represents a significant, positive step forward in solving the most acute labor problem our farmers face: access to a reliable and steady labor force. Our organizations look forward to working with you, the other members of the Judiciary Committee, the leadership of the House of Representatives, and other stakeholders, to advance this legislation in 2017. We recognize that your proposal is the best vehicle to arrive at a balanced solution to the immigration conundrum.

America's dairy farmers, and other employers who have perennial and not just seasonal labor needs, desperately require a workable program that allows them to access a consistent, legal, and dependable workforce. The AG Act creates such a program. We are appreciative that the act reflects the input that our organization and its members have offered to your committee as the measure was developed. Specifically, the AG Act recognizes that the status quo is unacceptable, as well as that enforcement-only measures could prove disastrous for the farm sector, and thus cannot be the first or only basis for fixing our broken immigration system.

This legislation is a rare opportunity to resolve several of the most challenging aspects of how to create a legal means of addressing the supply and demand elements affecting agriculture. The AG Act deals both with the challenges facing current workers, while also creating a new visa category to bring in future agriculture workers—workers that our dairy farmers will continue to rely on.

We recognize that this is the first step in what will be a lengthy process, involving input from many groups and other lawmakers as well. We look forward to continued collaboration as this measure moves forward, because we cannot wait any longer for action. The future of the dairy sector, and all of American agriculture, depends on us seizing this opportunity to finally resolve this issue.

With appreciation,

National Milk Producers Federation
Agri-Mark, Inc.
Alabama Farmers Federation
Associated Milk Producers Inc.
Bongards' Creameries
California Dairies, Inc.
California Dairy Campaign
Cooperative Milk Producers
Association
Cortland Bulk Milk Producers
Cooperative
Dairy Farmers of America, Inc.
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Ellsworth Cooperative Creamery
Farm First Dairy Cooperative
First District Association
Foremost Farms USA
Georgia Milk Producers Inc.
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Illinois Milk Producers Association
Indiana Dairy Producers
Iowa State Dairy Association
Kansas Dairy Association
Land O'Lakes, Inc.
Lone Star Milk Producers
Maryland & Virginia Milk
Producers Cooperative Association
Maryland Dairy Industry
Association
Michigan Milk Producers
Association
Midwest Dairy Coalition
Milk Producers Council
Minnesota Milk Producers
Association

Mount Joy Farmers Cooperative
Association
Nebraska State Dairy Association
North Carolina Dairy Producers
Association
North Dakota Dairy Coalition
Northeast Dairy Producers
Association, Inc.
Northwest Dairy Association
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Oneida-Madison Milk Producers
Cooperative Association
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Prairie Farms Dairy, Inc.
Premier Milk
Scioto County Cooperative Milk
Producers' Association
Select Milk Producers, Inc.
South Carolina Dairy Association
South Dakota Dairy Producers
South East Dairy Farmers
Association
Southeast Milk, Inc.
St. Albans Cooperative
Creamery, Inc.
Texas Association of Dairymen
Tillamook County
Creamery Association
U.S. Jersey
United Dairymen of Arizona
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
Vermont Dairy Producers
Association
Virginia State Dairymen's
Association
Washington State Dairy Federation
Western United Dairymen
Zia Milk Producers, Inc.