

July 24, 2012

The Honorable
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Rep. :

This afternoon the House of Representatives will debate and vote on H.R. 4157, the *Preserving America's Family Farms Act*. The undersigned organizations support preserving the ability of youth to gain training and education by working on the farm. Accordingly, we urge all members of the House to vote in favor of H.R. 4157.

The safety of all workers is of utmost importance; however, in September 2011, the Department of Labor introduced regulations that took caution beyond recognition. The proposed regulations were overly burdensome to agriculture producers and would have limited, if not eliminated, training opportunities for youth in rural America. Fortunately, the administration listened to the concerns of farmers and ranchers by withdrawing the regulation in April. However, the threat to family farms still exists. H.R. 4157 protects an agricultural way of life from future child labor regulations that could limit the ability of youth to learn valuable skills by working on the farm.

While we all respect the obligations and responsibilities of the Department of Labor to ensure the safety of youth working on farms as delineated in the Fair Labor Standards Act, we believe that the approaches taken need to be well reasoned and not detrimental to the family farm or the youth participating in farm work. Thus, we urge all members of the House to vote in favor of this bill when it reaches the floor.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
American Horse Council
American Seed Trade Association
American Soybean Association
International Association of Fairs and Expositions
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Cattlemen's Beef Association
National Council of Agricultural Employers
National Cotton Council
National FFA Organization
National Milk Producers Federation
National Pork Producers Council
United Fresh Produce Association
U.S. Apple Association