



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.

