

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte
Chairman
House Judiciary Committee
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

The organizations below represent a vast cross-section of agricultural interests in Arizona. Our members are the farmers, ranchers and dairymen who provide the benefit of Arizona's year-round agricultural production to the state. Today, agriculture contributes more than \$17 billion to the state's annual economy. Arizona's agriculture industry includes the production of cotton, alfalfa and wheat as well as the production of countless number of specialty crops including the vast number of fresh fruit and vegetables as well as nursery plants. Our livestock sector including cattle, dairy production and eggs is a very significant part of Arizona's economy. **All of this is at risk due to the crises facing Arizona agriculture- the critical agricultural labor shortage facing our state.** The agricultural labor crisis, we all agree is unmistakably the single greatest threat to the future of agriculture in the state of Arizona and we would contest the United States as well.

We sincerely appreciate your understanding of the significance of this crisis and your tireless efforts to address it. We all applaud your leadership in developing a creative solution to this ag-labor shortage through the Agriculture Guest- Worker Act (AG Act) of 2017. Your legislation replaces the current H-2A visa agricultural workers program which is seriously flawed and time consuming with a new multi-year agricultural visa that works for all sectors of agriculture. The H-2A visa program is seriously flawed and is useless to address the critical labor shortage we are experiencing in our livestock, dairy and poultry sectors.

We believe this legislation represents the best effort to balance competing interest and fix an agricultural labor crisis that has not been addressed for many years.

Thank you, Chairman Goodlatte, for recognizing these realities facing Arizona's agricultural producers and for your continued leadership in putting U.S. agriculture back on the path of economic sustainability. We look forward to working with you in making the enactment of the Agricultural Guest- Worker Act (AG Act) of 2017 a reality.

Sincerely,

Arizona Cattle Feeders' Association
Arizona Cotton Growers
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
United Dairymen of Arizona