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## Georgia Farm Bureau Federation

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October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
United States House of Representatives  
2309 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Goodlatte:

Thank you for introducing the Ag Act of 2017.

The Ag Act addresses many of our concerns with the H-2A guest worker program by creating a new, more market friendly H-2C program. The new H-2C program broadens the base of employers eligible to use the program to include dairies and other year-round employers, eliminates the burdensome "50% rule", provides for a better calculation of the "Adverse Effect Wage Rate," shifts the H-2A administrative functions over to USDA, and offers additional protections to farmers from harassing litigation. It also secures and increases reliance on the current workforce by making law abiding undocumented agriculture workers eligible for the H-2C program.

One concern with the legislation is the implementation of a "cap" on the number of H-2C workers annually eligible for the program. We are grateful that the legislation exempts current H-2A and undocumented workers that adjust into the program, however it is critical the new H-2C program be market based to meet the demands of employers. Jobs in agriculture are physically demanding, conducted in all seasons, and are often transitory. These conditions are not attractive to many Americans, so it is important for the H-2C program to provide the migratory workforce needed.

While the Ag Act does not address all our concerns, the legislation is a positive step forward to bringing reliability to farm employers. We are pleased to offer our support.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Gerald Long".

Gerald Long, President