



## United Dairymen of Arizona

2008 S. Hardy Dr. / PO Box 26877  
Tempe, AZ 85282 / 85285  
Ph: (480) 966-7211 Fax: (480) 829-7491

October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Judiciary Committee  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn H.O.B.  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

The United Dairymen of Arizona (UDA) appreciate your acknowledgment of the critical labor crisis facing rural America, U.S. agriculture, and the dairy industry. The members of UDA applaud your leadership in crafting a creative solution to the agricultural labor shortage facing U.S. agriculture today. We support the Agriculture Guestworker Act of 2017 and urge its passage. The current agriculture labor crisis is unmistakably the greatest threat to the future of the U.S. dairy industry in Arizona.

UDA is a milk marketing cooperative owned by Arizona dairy families. Founded in 1960, the co-op merged two local dairy associations to ensure an adequate supply of fresh milk and dairy products of the highest possible quality for customers.

Our membership consists of approximately 86 farms, averaging 2,400 head per dairy. Our modern manufacturing facility in Tempe operates 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, and produces high, medium and low heat nonfat dry milk (including vitamin fortified products), MPC, cream, butter, skim milk, condensed skim milk and lactose powder.

We strongly support the provision in the legislation to provide a 36 month continuous visa for dairy and other non-seasonal enterprises. This provision is critical to dairy labor needs.

Many of today's dairy farms (including the majority of UDA's members) operate seven days a week, 365 days a year, and milk their cows three times a day. This results in milking thousands of cows 2-3 times/day, often employing over a 100 workers per dairy farm, and running 3 shifts a day. The work is nonstop, challenging, and dangerous for untrained workers. It is extremely difficult to staff dairy farms with willing and qualified workers -- especially in rural areas.

***United Dairymen of Arizona is a local, family-owned, dairy cooperative committed to serve the needs of our members, community, and customers by marketing and selling high quality milk and dairy products.***



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A trained, dependable, and uninterrupted workforce is critical to the care and protection of our animals, to the viability of the U.S. dairy industry and to our ability to produce the wholesome milk our consumers demand.

Thank you, Chairman Goodlatte, for recognizing the realities facing U.S. agriculture today and for your continued leadership in putting American agriculture and the U.S. dairy industry back on the path of sustainability. We look forward to working with you and the members of the House Judiciary Committee to move forward this very much need legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Paul Rovey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Paul Rovey  
President  
United Dairymen of Arizona

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