



October 3, 2017

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States House of Representatives  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Goodlatte:

On behalf of the Dairy Business Milk Marketing Cooperative (DBMMC) and our farmer members, I would like to thank you for your leadership and work on the Agricultural Guestworker Act (AG Act). We applaud your efforts to help all of agriculture, including dairy farmers, have access to a sustainable workforce. The future viability of the dairy community depends on a workable solution to farmers' labor needs.

Maintaining a reliable workforce is one of the foremost concerns of our nearly 800 dairy farmer members throughout the Midwest. Changes in demographics and labor patterns have made it impossible for growing farms to fill all available positions with American citizens. As a result, dairy farming has become increasingly dependent on foreign-born employees. Unfortunately, there are no current agricultural visa programs that meet dairy farmers' year-round staffing needs, highlighting the importance to quickly move the AG Act forward.

The AG Act signifies a major step in securing a comprehensive labor solution for the dependable year-round labor force dairy farmers need. This legislation addresses both of our dairy farmers' top concerns: a pathway to retain our current employees and a program to attract new employees. Long-time employees have become an integral component of dairies' success and we need to maintain their skills and institutional knowledge. Dairy farmers also face an immediate need to attract new employees to our farms. The AG Act gives our farmers the opportunity to recruit the future workforce that they need so the dairy industry can thrive.

DBMMC realizes that shepherding the AG Act through the legislative process will require ongoing engagement. Along with the rest of the agricultural community, we look forward to continuing our work with you, your staff, and your fellow lawmakers to provide additional input and advance this legislation. DBMMC commends your thoughtful leadership on this critical issue. We urge your colleagues on the House Judiciary Committee to support the AG Act.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'John T. Pagel'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, flowing 'J' and 'P'.

John Pagel  
President