

September 11, 2007

The Honorable Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 2051

Dear Mr. Leader:

We write you to urge the passage of the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007, "AgJOBS" this year. As you are aware, AgJOBS (H.R. 371) is a bipartisan bill that has the support of over 880 farmer, worker and immigrant organizations, including the full and active support of the United Farm Workers of America (the "UFW") and Change to Win.

As the representatives for workers across the country, we believe strongly that the effects of the broken immigration system on the labor market must be addressed. This legislation represents the type of compromise that is necessary in order to balance the needs of U.S. workers and of undocumented workers and their families. Large segments of the U.S. agriculture economy are dependent upon an immigrant, and to date, undocumented workforce. Without providing mechanisms to have that workforce become documented and stable, agricultural growers across the country face real worker shortages. We have already seen in the past year real economic losses across the country for growers and their communities, as well as stress on farmworkers and their families as they live in fear of deportation and harassment due to our broken immigration system.

Without AgJOBS and the stability it would provide to the agricultural workforce, the United States fruit and vegetable market faces the same global threat as U.S. manufacturing. We face a future where the fruits and vegetables Americans buy will be increasingly imported. At a time when the U.S. cannot keep up with its current food inspection demands, Americans will be unwittingly at the mercy of foreign health and safety inspectors to insure that their food is safe, non-toxic and accurately labeled. There is another option: stabilize and build the domestic agricultural industry. AgJOBS would do just that.

Countless public opinion polls show that a majority of Americans want balanced action on this issue. Walking away from this issue and not doing anything for years to come becomes a potent symbol of the ineffectiveness of Congress to tackle hard issues. Enacting AgJOBS,

Leadership Council

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Change to Win
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Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate

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which is a narrowly tailored piece of legislation addressing an industry with a workforce in crisis, may be the only way that rationality and reasonableness can be restored to this debate. As union leaders with a great respect and support for your Leadership, we believe it is critical that you take this opportunity to distinguish this Congress on an important policy issue that matters in immigrant communities around the country. We pledge our full assistance as you move this sensible reform through Congress.

You and your colleagues have an opportunity to stabilize a vital American industry and to truly help people and make a real difference in their lives. We urge you to work to enact AgJOBS before this year ends.

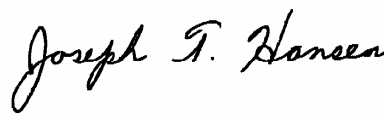
Sincerely,



Anna Burger
Chair
Change to Win
Workers Union




Edgar Romney
Secretary-Treasurer
Change to Win



Joseph T. Hansen
General President
United Food and Commercial



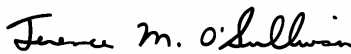
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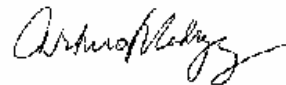
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cc: Senator Richard Durbin