

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4704

March 26, 2015

The Honorable John A. Boehner
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

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

Dear Speaker Boehner and Chairman Goodlatte:

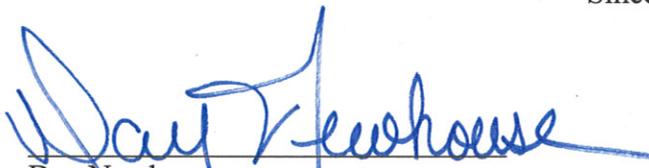
We represent a substantial amount of our nation's agricultural community. As you know, our nation's farmers and ranchers are the backbone of our economy and are responsible for feeding billions of people, both in our country and around the world. This is a great responsibility and requires the use of both our natural resources and our human resources. Agriculture is a labor intensive industry and even in tough economic times there remains a shortage of domestic labor.

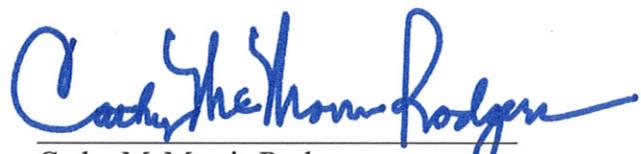
We understand the House Committee on the Judiciary has begun consideration of immigration enforcement legislation. While we agree with the need to stem the flow of illegal immigration and are supportive of measures like E-Verify, implementing mandatory E-Verify without also enacting strong reforms ensuring our farmers have access to a legal, reliable and stable workforce will cause serious problems for our domestic agricultural industry and our nation's economy. The H-2A program is unworkable and as a result supplies only 10% of agricultural workers – while dairy is not allowed to participate at all – and the current program simply does not have the capacity to increase by ten-fold. In short, agriculture needs a solution that addresses the unique aspects of its workforce and ensures a legal, reliable workforce in both the short and long term.

Our farmers and ranchers must have access to a legal and reliable workforce in order to provide the world with a safe and abundant supply of food. It is imperative that any effort to implement mandatory E-Verify be coupled with a solution to agriculture's unique labor needs. Failure to couple these reforms together would create an unworkable situation for American agriculture. We stand ready to work with you to ensure enforcement of our immigration laws while also implementing critically needed reforms for agriculture labor.

We appreciate your attention to this request and we stand ready to work with you.

Sincerely,


Dan Newhouse
Member of Congress


Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress



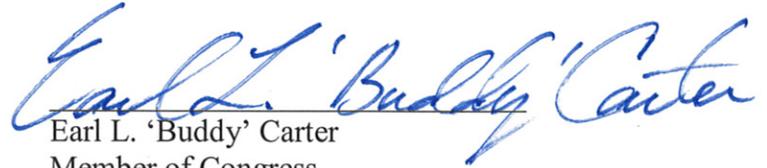
Ralph Abraham, M.D.
Member of Congress



Ken Calvert
Member of Congress



Mark E. Amodei
Member of Congress



Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress



Andy Barr
Member of Congress



Chris Collins
Member of Congress



Dan Benishek
Member of Congress



Jim Costa
Member of Congress



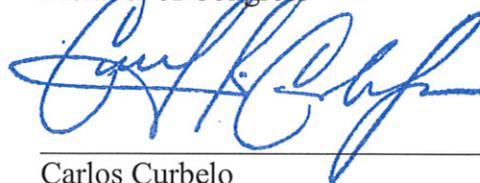
Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Rick Crawford
Member of Congress



Mike Bost
Member of Congress



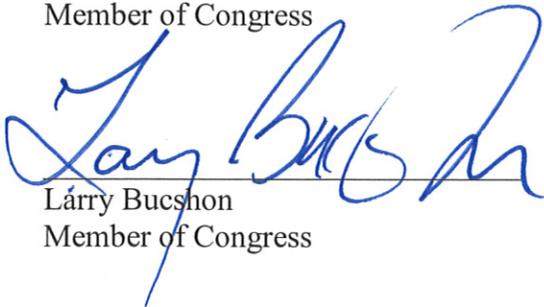
Carlos Curbelo
Member of Congress



Ken Buck
Member of Congress



Rodney Davis
Member of Congress



Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress



Jeff Denham
Member of Congress



Charles W. Dent
Member of Congress



Andy Harris, M.D.
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais, M.D.
Member of Congress



Jaime Herrera Beutler
Member of Congress



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Sean P. Duffy
Member of Congress



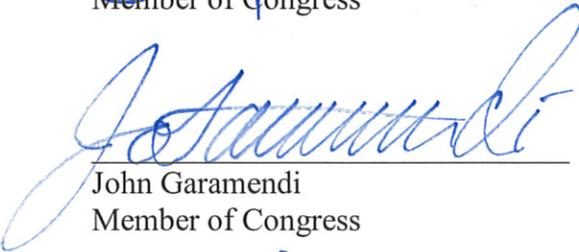
Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress



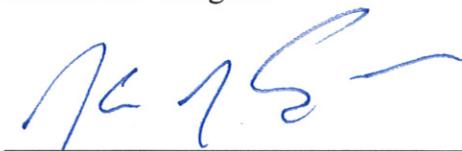
Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress



David P. Joyce
Member of Congress



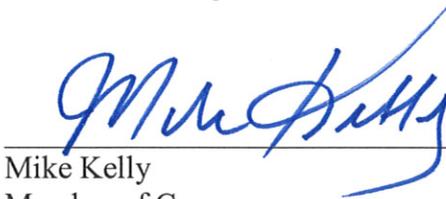
John Garamendi
Member of Congress



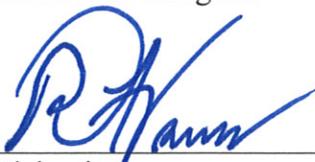
John Katko
Member of Congress



Chris Gibson
Member of Congress



Mike Kelly
Member of Congress



Richard Hanna
Member of Congress



Ron Kind
Member of Congress



Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress



Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Tom Reed
Member of Congress



Luke Messer
Member of Congress



Dave Reichert
Member of Congress



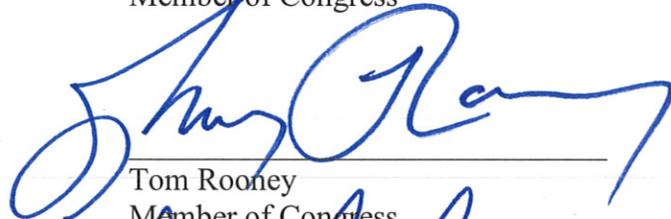
Frank A. LoBiondo
Member of Congress



Reid Ribble
Member of Congress



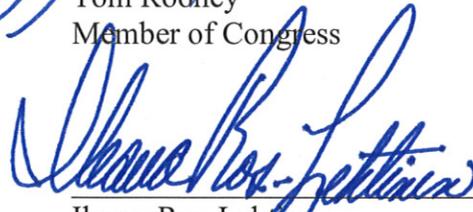
Tom MacArthur
Member of Congress



Tom Rooney
Member of Congress



Mark Meadows
Member of Congress



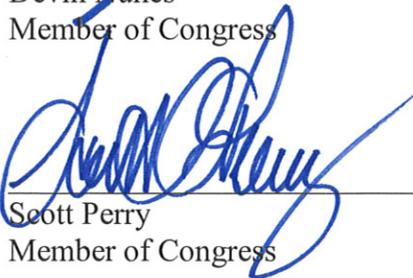
Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
Member of Congress



Devin Nunes
Member of Congress



Dennis Ross
Member of Congress



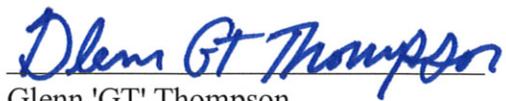
Scott Perry
Member of Congress



Kurt Schrader
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress



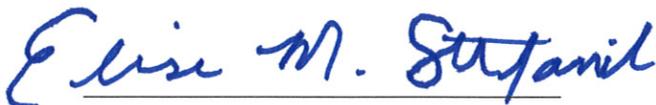
Ted Yoho
Member of Congress



David G. Valadao
Member of Congress



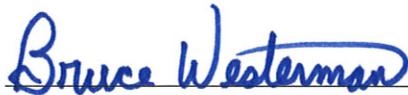
Fred Upton
Member of Congress



Elise Stefanik
Member of Congress



Lee Zeldin
Member of Congress



Bruce Westerman
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress



Steve Womack
Member of Congress