

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2017

President Donald J. Trump
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump:

We write to highlight the critical role that immigrants play in California's agriculture industry. The success of our agriculture depends on immigrants and without them the industry's economic viability and our rural communities will greatly suffer. That is why we hope to work together to find a solution on our nation's immigration policies that affect our state and nation.

California agriculture is extremely labor intensive due to its numerous specialty crops and dairy farms. Many immigrants come to this country to fill farmworker positions and do the work necessary to care for livestock and harvest produce in a timely manner. They conduct arduous work in extremely difficult conditions to put high quality fresh fruits, vegetables, and dairy products on our tables across the country and around the world. If immigrants are not available to perform that work, the dairy cows will not be milked and millions of dollars' worth of highly perishable fruits and vegetables will be left to rot in the field.

It is evident that the current pool of immigrant agriculture workers is shrinking and aging. Moreover, most Americans will not fill farmworker positions and effective, economically viable technology that properly handles delicate crops and dairy cows is not readily available to producers. If immigrants are unavailable, California's agriculture industry will be devastated and consumers will be saddled with very high prices.

Hard-working immigrant farmworkers are not only the back-bone of our agriculture industry, but they and their families are the heart and soul of many rural communities. They pay taxes, contribute to the social, cultural, and historical fabric of our society, and bring an inherent value to our rural communities and country.


We recognize that our nation's current immigration system is broken. It is the time, however, to develop bipartisan immigration policies that ensure an adequate immigrant workforce. To meet that goal, we must keep in mind the unique needs of our agriculture and rural economies. Please know that we are ready and willing to work with you and your administration on crafting a bipartisan solution on immigration reform that ensures our nation's safety and protects our agriculture communities and economy.

Sincerely,



JIMMY PANETTA
Member of Congress

JEFF DENHAM
Member of Congress

JIM COSTA
Member of Congress

DAVID G. VALADAO
Member of Congress