

August 10, 2026

Dear U.S. Representative,

We, the undersigned agricultural organizations and grower operations, strongly support H.R. 9535, the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act (SAWA) that was introduced by Representative G.T. Thompson on June 30, and we urge its swift passage.

Agricultural producers from across the country are facing unprecedented challenges. Over the last decade, America has lost nearly 200,000 farms and many more are on the brink of ceasing operations. Chronic labor shortages and unsustainable increases in labor costs continue to be a driving force in this troubling trend. America's ability to maintain national security and feed itself is dependent upon farmers having access to a reliable workforce.

Given the increasing unavailability of domestic workers¹, the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Worker Program is the only option for many agricultural producers to secure the workers needed to produce a crop. With growth of more than 186% over the last decade to nearly 400,000 H-2A positions approved in fiscal year 2025, it is abundantly clear that domestic employees cannot fill agriculture's labor needs. The labor shortages driving this growth are indisputable. In fiscal year 2025, only 182 U.S. workers applied for the more than 400,000 H-2A positions available nationwide.

Unfortunately, outdated H-2A program statutory requirements serve as insurmountable barriers to entry for numerous farmers, ranchers, and growers that have no other workforce available. Incredibly bureaucratic and complex program requirements make the program difficult and expensive to use and frequently leads to costly delays in worker arrivals. The H-2A program's seasonal framework also excludes – or poorly serves – farms with year-round, longer-duration, or more complex workforce needs. Even for those whose labor needs do meet the seasonal restrictions, the complexity of the H-2A program structure drives costs so high that farm income no longer covers input costs, ultimately forcing farmers to change to a less labor-intensive crop or go out of business.

SAWA would make critical reforms to this program to address these challenges. Specifically, the bill would:

- Remove the outdated requirement that work must be strictly 'seasonal' in nature, allowing farm operations that have been left out of the current system to access the H-2A program so long as the job offered is 350 days or less.
- Retain the requirement that work be 'temporary,' defined as a job contract of 350 days or less.
- Modernize the definition of 'agricultural labor or services' to address the full diversity of today's farm sector.

¹ <https://www.ers.usda.gov/topics/farm-economy/farm-labor>

- Codify and further stabilize the 2025 Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR) methodology, providing farmers and workers with certainty and relief from near constant regulatory changes and litigation.
- Reduce administrative and compliance costs by simplifying program requirements.

SAWA also includes a narrow provision that U.S. agriculture likewise supports - allowing existing unauthorized agricultural workers with the required work history, or individuals who have voluntarily self-deported, that have a clean criminal record to be eligible for the H-2A program if they meet all other application requirements including a background check and in-person interview. U.S. employers would be able to petition for specific eligible workers, preventing significant production disruption while ensuring a transition to a temporary authorized workforce. Workers would be limited to working for petitioning agricultural employers, and work authorization would be tied to the length of their employment with a sponsoring employer. These workers would be subject to the same requirements as other H-2A workers, including being required to depart the U.S. at conclusion of their employment. Indeed, the bill provides no pathway to legal status for undocumented family members of these workers.

Importantly, the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act preserves protections ensuring that U.S. workers are not adversely affected by the employment of H-2A workers. This includes the maintenance of existing H-2A program requirements that employers must actively recruit domestically and hire any qualified worker who applies, and revision of the wage requirements so that U.S. workers are truly compensated at the same overall level as H-2A workers. It would also establish a new requirement for employers to maintain a comprehensive heat illness prevention plan that provides access to water, shade, and rest breaks, along with clear emergency response protocols, ensuring workers are safe on the job.

The need to implement SAWA is urgent, and the cost of inaction is high. The continued and irreversible loss of American farms has and will continue to depress the economies of rural communities across the nation, while straining the United States' ability to feed itself – a national security risk exemplified by recent supply chain disruptions. Rural and urban communities across the country simply cannot afford to have Congress kick the can down the road again. We ask that you support H.R. 9535, the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act, without delay.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation
AmericanHort
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
International Fresh Produce Association
National Council of Agricultural Employers
National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
National Milk Producers Federation
National Potato Council
Northwest Horticultural Council

U.S. Apple Association
USA Farmers
Western Growers

4 Corners Farm
Abbott Farms Inc
Adams County Nursery, Inc.
AdeptAg
Ag Valley Cooperative, Non-Stock
Ag Wage Reform Coalition
Agribusiness Association of Kentucky
Agribusiness Council of Indiana
Agribusiness Henderson County
Agricultural Council of Arkansas
Agricultural Retailers Association
Agriculture Workforce Management Association Inc
Agri-Mark, Inc.
Agri-Placement Services, Inc
AgWest Farm Credit
Alabama Dairy Producers
Alabama Farmers Federation
Alabama Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association
Alabama Pork Producers
Almond Alliance
Alstede Farms, LLC
Altman Plants
Amcot
American Beekeeping Federation
American Horse Council
American Livestock Markets and Dealers Association
American Mushroom Institute
American Peanut Shellers Association
American Seed Trade Association
American Sheep Industry Association
American Soybean Association
American Sugar Alliance
American Sugar Cane League
American Sugarbeet Growers Association
Area 2 Farms, PBC.
Arizona Dairy Producers Trade Association
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation
Arizona Nursery Association
Arizona Pork Council
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation

Arkansas Rice Federation
Associated Milk Producers Inc.
Associated Oregon Hazelnut Industries
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Baker Ranches Inc
Beck's Turf, Inc.
Big Creek Nursery
Black Gold Farms
Blue Ridge Apple Growers Association
Bonnie Brae Fruit Farms
C&C Farms Inc
C.O.C. Placement Service
Cajun Visa Company Inc
Calcot
California Apple Commission
California Association of Winegrape Growers
California Blueberry Association
California Blueberry Commission
California Citrus Mutual
California Dairies, Inc.
California Dairy Campaign
California Farm Bureau
California Fresh Fruit Association
California League of Food Producers
California Pork Producers Association
California Walnut Commission
California Wild Rice Advisory Board
California Women for Agriculture
Carolinas Cotton Growers Cooperative
Central Wisconsin Evergreens, Inc.
Coast2Coast Labor Consulting
CoBank
Cobblestone Milk Cooperative
Colorado Association of Wheat Growers
Colorado Cattlemen's Association
Colorado Dairy Farmers
Colorado Farm Bureau
Colorado Fruit & Vegetable Growers Association
Colorado Livestock Association
Colorado Nursery and Greenhouse Association
Colorado Pork Producers Council
Colorado Potato Legislative Association
Columbia Gorge Fruit Growers
Compeer Financial
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association
Controlled Environment Agriculture Alliance

Coosa Tree & Shrub Farm
Costa Farms
Cotton Growers Warehouse Association
Dairy Farmers of America
Dairy Producers of New Mexico
Dairy Producers of Utah
Dan and Jerry's Greenhouses
Daniels Produce LLC
Decker Nursery, Inc.
Delaware Farm Bureau
Desert Management Services
Dixie Sod Farm Inc
Dressel Farms
Dutchman Tree Farms
Easy Gardens with Harvey
Edge Dairy Farmer Cooperative
El Vista Orchards Inc.
Empire State Council of Agricultural Organizations
Empire State Potato Growers, Inc.
Extreme Green Farms
Farm Credit Council
Farm Credit East
Farm Credit Illinois
Federation of Employers and Workers of America
Ferguson Farms, LLC
FirstFruits Farms
Florida Cattlemen's Association
Florida Citrus Mutual
Florida Farm Bureau Federation
Florida Nursery, Growers & Landscape Association
Florida Strawberry Growers Association
Florida Sugar Cane League
Florida Tomato Exchange
Flowerwood Nursery, Inc.
Food Producers of Idaho
Francis Roses
Fred L Glaize LC
Frenchman Valley Farmers Coop
Fruit Growers Marketing Association
Fullmer's Landscaping Inc.
G. Hoeksema & Sons Inc.
Georgia Farm Bureau
Georgia Fruit and Vegetable Growers Association
Georgia Green Industry Association, Inc.
Georgia Milk Producers, Inc
Georgia Pecan Growers Association

Glanbia Nutritionals
GLD Farms
Goin's Blueberry Lane
Green Circle Growers
Green Oak
GreenForest Nursery, Inc.
Greenwood Dairy Farm
Grimmway Produce Group
Grow It Here
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California
GROWMARK, Inc.
Hiatt Honey LLC
Hoffman Nursery, Inc.
Hollabaugh Bros., Inc.
Horkey Brother Farms
Hunter Trees, LLC
Idaho Alfalfa & Clover Seed Growers Association
Idaho Apple Commission
Idaho Dairymen's Association
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation
Idaho Grain Producers Association
Idaho Grower Shippers Association
Idaho Hay & Forage Association
Idaho Hop Growers Association
Idaho Mint Growers Association
Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association, Inc.
Idaho Onion Growers' Association
Idaho State Grange
Idaho Wool Growers Association
Idaho-Oregon Fruit and Vegetable Association
Illinois Farm Bureau
Illinois Milk Producers Association
Illinois Pork Producers Association
Illinois Specialty Growers Association
Independent Professional Seed Association - IPSA
Indiana Dairy Producers
Indiana Farm Bureau
Indiana Meat Packers and Processors Association
Indiana Pork Producers Assn
Iowa Institute for Cooperatives
Iowa Nursery and Landscape Association
Iowa Pork Producers Association
Iowa State Dairy Association
J&J Thompson Farms Inc
James Greenhouses LLC
Jenkins Family Farms

John Schuring, Jr. Co.
Kansas Agribusiness Retailers Association
Kansas Association of Wheat Growers
Kansas Cooperative Council
Kansas Dairy Association
Kansas Farm Bureau
Kansas Livestock Association
Kansas Pork Association
Kansas Sorghum Producers
Kentucky Association of Meat Processors
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation
Kentucky Soybean Association
Kentucky Thoroughbred Association
King Orchards, Inc
LaBranz Asparagus Farm
Land O'Lakes Inc.
Legacy Labor, Inc.
Leitz Farms, L.L.C.
Leprino Foods Company
Little Bear Produce
Livestock Marketing Association
Louisiana Rice Producers Group
Lum Hughston Trucking LLC
Maine Dairy Industry Association
Maine Landscape and Nursery Association
Maine Potato Board
Manzana LLC
Marsing Agricultural Labor Sponsoring Committee Inc
Martin's Nursery
Maryland Farm Bureau
Maryland Nursery, Landscape, and Greenhouse Assoc., Inc.
másLabor
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation
May Nursery, Inc.
MBG Marketing
McCorkle Nurseries
Meat Institute
Metrolina Greenhouses
Michigan Apple Association
Michigan Asparagus Association
Michigan Farm Bureau
Michigan Milk Producers Association
Michigan Pork Producers Association
Mid Georgia Nursery, Inc.
Midwest Council on Agriculture
Midwest Dairy Coalition

Milk Producers Council
Milk Producers of Idaho
Minnesota Apple Growers Association
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association
Minnesota Pork Producers Association
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation
Mississippi Nursery and Landscape Association
Missouri Corn Growers Association
Missouri Dairy
Missouri Farm Bureau
Missouri Pork Association
Missouri Rice Council
Montana Farm Bureau Federation
Montana Grain Growers Association
Montana Nursery & Landscape Association
Montana Pork Producers Council
Montana Potato Improvement Association
Montana Stockgrowers Association
Montana Wool Growers Association
Mosher Farms LLC
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of State Departments of Agriculture
National Association of Wheat Growers
National Barley Growers Association
National Christmas Tree Association
National Corn Growers Association
National Cotton Council
National Cotton Ginners Association
National Grange
National Onion Association
National Peach Council
National Peanut Buying Points Association
National Pecan Federation
National Pork Producers Council
National Sorghum Producers
National Sunflower Association
National Turkey Federation
National Watermelon Association
Nature Fresh Farms
NatureSweet
NC Chamber
NC Dairy Producers Association
Nebraska Agri-Business Association
Nebraska Cooperative Council
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation

Nebraska Pork Producers Association
Nebraska Potato Board
Nebraska State Dairy Association
Nevada Farm Bureau Federation
New Jersey Farm Bureau
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau
New York Beef Producer's Association
New York Farm Bureau
New York State Horticultural Society
New York State Turfgrass Association, Inc.
New York Wine & Grape Foundation
NG Turf
North American Blueberry Council
North Carolina Agribusiness Council
North Carolina Apple Growers Association
North Carolina Business Council
North Carolina Cattlemen's Association
North Carolina Dairy Producers Association
North Carolina Farm Bureau
North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association
North Carolina Pork Council
North Carolina Potato Association
North Carolina Sweetpotato Commission
North Carolina Tomato Growers Association
North Dakota Stockmen's Association
Northeast Agribusiness and Feed Alliance
Northeast Dairy Producers Association
Northern Family Farms
Northern Pulse Growers Association
Northland Potato Growers Association
Northwest Agricultural Cooperative Council
Northwest Dairy Association
NYS Nursery and Landscape Association
NYS Vegetable Growers
Oelschig Nursery
Ohio Apple Marketing Program
Ohio Dairy Producers Association
Ohio Pork Council
Ohio Produce Growers and Marketers Association
Oklahoma Farm Bureau
Olden Produce, LLC
Olive Grower Council of California
Olive Oil Commission of California
Olson's Greenhouse Gardens, Inc
OnePointOne
Orchard View Farms

Oregon Association of Nurseries
Oregon Dairy Farmers Association
Oregon Farm Bureau
Oregon Pork Producers Association
Oregon Women for Agriculture
Overdevest Nurseries, LP
Pack's Nursery
Parkesdale Farms, Inc
Pennsylvania Apple Program
Pennsylvania Cooperative Potato Growers
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association
Petersburg Co-op Gins
Piedmont Carolina Nursery
Pierson Nurseries Inc
Pischek Industries
Plains Cotton Cooperative Association
Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
Plantpeddler Inc.
Potato Growers of Michigan
Prides Corner Farms
Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania
Red Sun Farms
Reeves Farms LLC
Riverside County Farm Bureau
Rocky Creek Nurseries, Inc.
Rolling Plains Cotton Growers, Inc.
San Diego County Farm Bureau
Sandyland Farms
Saunders Brothers, Inc.
Save Family Farming
Seamans Orchard
Seso Labor
Sessions Farm
Shellfish Growers of Virginia
Shore Acres Plant Farm Inc.
Shoreline Fruit, LLC
Silver Creek & Seamans Orchard Inc
Silver Creek Orchards, Inc.
Silverhill Satsumas
Simplot Company
Smith Plant Farm, Inc.
Snake River Sugarbeet Growers Association
Society of American Florists
South Carolina Farm Bureau
South Carolina Peach Council

South Carolina Small Fruit Growers Association
South Dakota Agri-Business Association
South Dakota Association of Cooperatives
South Dakota Dairy Producers
South Dakota Farm Bureau
South Dakota Pork Producers Council
South East Dairy Farmers Association
South Texas Cotton & Grain Association
Southeastern Cotton Ginners Association, Inc.
Southern Peanut Farmers Federation
Southern Rolling Plains Cotton Growers Association
Southwest Council of Agribusiness
Specialty Crop Farm Labor Contractors
Sportel Greenhouses
Staplcotn
State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania
Strong Tower Nursery
SVF, Inc.
Sweet Grown Alabama
Tennessee Corn Growers Association
Tennessee Dairy Producers Association
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation
Tennessee Farmers Cooperative
Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association
Tennessee Pork Producers Association
Tennessee Soybean Association
Texas Agribusiness Insurance
Texas Agricultural Cooperative Council
Texas Association of Dairyemen
Texas Cattle Feeders Association
Texas Citrus Mutual
Texas Cotton Ginners' Association
Texas Farm Bureau
Texas International Produce Association
Texas Nursery and Landscape Association
Texas Pork Producers Association
Texas Rice Producers Legislative Group
Texas Vegetable Association
The Center for Dairy Excellence -- Pennsylvania
The Chef's Garden
Thompson Seed Potato, LLC
Tillamook County Creamery Association
Titan Farms
Tobacco Associates, Inc
Tobacco Growers Association of North Carolina
Tom Dodd Nursery

Tom Strain & Sons and Daughter Too
Torrey Partnership
Tri-Hishtil, LLC
U.S. Canola Association
U.S. Custom Harvesters Inc
U.S. Peanut Federation
United Dairy Farmers of Florida
United Dairymen of Arizona
United Egg Producers
Upstate Niagara Cooperative, Inc.
USA Pulses
USA Rice
Utah Farm Bureau Federation
Utah Pork Producers Association
Utah Wool Growers Association
Ventura County Agricultural Association
Vidalia Onion Business Council
Virginia Agribusiness Council
Virginia Agricultural Growers Association, Inc
Virginia Apple Board
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation
Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association
Virginia Pork Council
Virginia State Dairymen's Association
WA Friends of Farms and Forests
Walnut Ridge Dairy
Washington Asparagus Commission
Washington Association of Wheat Growers
Washington Blueberry Commission
Washington Cattlemen's Association
Washington Red Raspberry Commission Washington
State Dairy Federation
Washington State Potato Commission
Washington State Tree Fruit Association Washington
Winegrowers Association
WD Henry & Sons Inc
Western Iowa Dairy Alliance
Western Peanut Growers Association
Western States Dairy Producers Association Western
United Dairies
Will-O-Crest Farms, LLC
Willoway Nurseries, Inc.
Wisconsin Christmas Tree Producers Association
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation
Wisconsin Potato and Vegetable Growers Association

Wish Farms
Woodburn Nursery & Azaleas Inc.
Worker and Farmer Labor Association
Worthington Farms, Inc.
Wyoming Ag Business Association
Wyoming Wheat Growers Association
Yakima County Cattlemens Association
Yakima-Klickitat Farm Association
Young's Plant Farm