

MINNESOTA BUSINESS IMMIGRATION COALITION
BUSINESS & AGRICULTURE SUPPORTING COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

May 20, 2009

The Honorable Collin Peterson
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Peterson:

On behalf of agricultural businesses across Minnesota, thank you for your leadership as an original co-author of H.R. 2414, the AgJOBS bill.

Many of Minnesota's farms, dairies, and nursery growers rely on immigrant workers. Without these workers, the state's agricultural community would suffer severe ramifications and, in fact, many native-born workers would lose their jobs and businesses would shut down.

AgJOBS will allow labor-intensive segments of the state's agricultural community to supply consumers with abundant, safe, and affordable food and other agricultural products. It will end growers' dilemma of choosing between a labor force largely feared to be out of legal status, or a broken guest worker program. It will permit workers to earn an honest and dignified living with fair wages and rights. By ensuring the needed labor force, AgJOBS also secures the many jobs in transportation, food processing, farm lending, and other sectors that depend on American production staying in America.

AgJOBS does not ignore security concerns; indeed, it will enhance border security. Studies have shown that a workable seasonal foreign labor program in agriculture will dramatically reduce future illegal entry, thereby allowing America to better manage the border. AgJOBS is part of the solution.

It is spring. Minnesota's farmers are hard at work. Please know that they care about resolving this issue now. Know that they are behind you, and thankful for your support for AgJOBS.

The undersigned organizations have recently come together to form the Minnesota Business Immigration Coalition to draw attention to the need for comprehensive immigration reform and to the importance of immigrant jobs within our industries. You will be hearing more from our Coalition and our members in the weeks and months to come.

Sincerely,

MINNESOTA BUSINESS IMMIGRATION COALITION

Minnesota Agri-Growth Council
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce
Minnesota Milk Producers Association
Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association
Hospitality Minnesota

MINNESOTA BUSINESS IMMIGRATION COALITION
C/O MINNESOTA CHAMBER OF COMMERCE
400 ROBERT STREET NORTH, SUITE 1500
ST. PAUL MN 55101
651-292-4692