



June 7, 2013

Re: Immigration Leadership Forum

Dear Agricultural Leader:

Here we are in June of 2013 with perhaps the most positive outlook for achieving *comprehensive immigration reform* than any time in recent memory. The Senate “Gang of Eight” turned their hard-fought agreement into a bill that has passed the Senate Judiciary Committee. The Border Security, Economic Opportunity, and Immigration Modernization Act, S. 744, will be brought before the full Senate beginning the week of June 10, and enjoys bipartisan support.

S. 744 is the result of many hours of negotiations by stakeholders on all sides. Key among the provisions of this bill is an *agricultural component* to meet the needs of our industry, namely, ensuring a qualified, legal, and available workforce now and for the future. The first key agricultural provision grants legal status to agricultural employees currently in the U.S., and permits adjustment to that of “lawful permanent resident” if the individual continues to work in agriculture for at least several years. The second key agricultural provision is a guest worker program will provide non-immigrant visas for employment in agriculture and is intended to be easier to use than the current dysfunctional program.

It took much effort and many hours of hard work by the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), the Agricultural Coalition for Immigration Reform (ACIR), and National Council of Agricultural Employers (NCAE). The time has now come for our best efforts to move this bill through the Senate and bring similar legislation through the House. This effort requires financial assistance from supporters like you that know the importance of immigration reform for agriculture. As we enter this crucial time in our effort, it is important that we build the financial resources to see this through to the finish.

Our goal is to raise \$100,000 in California. Similar efforts to raise funds are happening across the country. We hope to have a strong showing from California agriculture because we know how crucial a reliable workforce is to our industry.

Please join us for a luncheon at Sunnyside Country Club in Fresno on June 25<sup>th</sup> to hear more about the efforts to achieve comprehensive immigration reform. Consider this your personal, and individual, invitation. An update on the efforts of our allies in Washington will be provided by Craig Regelbrugge of ACIR and Monte Lake of CJ Lake. Additionally, we are working with Senators Dianne Feinstein and Marco Rubio to address the luncheon by phone.

We are closer to achieving comprehensive immigration reform than any other time in recent memory; closer than we were in 2001 and closer than we were in 2007. To get where we need to go in this effort we need the personal support of people like you and the financial resources to see that comprehensive immigration reform becomes a reality.

We look forward to seeing you on the 25<sup>th</sup>.

*Immigration Leadership Forum*

*June 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013*

*Sunnyside Country Club*

*5704 E. Butler*

*Fresno, CA 93727*

*11:30am - 1:00pm*

Sincerely,

Barry Bedwell, California Grape and Tree Fruit League  
Jim Bogart, Grower-Shipper Association of Central California  
Jeannine Campos, Campos Brothers Farms  
Manuel Cunha, Jr., Nisei Farmers League  
Glen Goto, Raisin Bargaining Association  
Roger Isom, Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Tom Nassif, Western Growers  
Joel Nelsen, California Citrus Mutual  
Craig Regelbrugge, Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform  
Rob Roy, Ventura County Agricultural Association  
Richard Schmidt, United Ag  
Paul Wenger, California Farm Bureau Federation