The State of Immigration Reform

Agricultural Workforce Coalition
Founding Members

• National Council of Farmer Cooperatives
• National Council of Agricultural Employers
• Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association
• United Fresh Produce Association
• Western Growers Association
• National Milk Producers Federation
• Western United Dairymen
• American Farm Bureau Federation
• USA Farmers
• American Nursery & Landscape Association
• U. S. Apple Association
• Agricultural Coalition for Immigration Reform
• + 59 Others
• www.agworkforcecoalition.org

U.S. Senate

• S.744 Border Security, Economic Opportunity and Immigration Modernization Act of 2013
  ❖ Comprehensive reform bill
  ❖ Includes a specific agricultural section
  ❖ Ag section broadens usage (includes packinghouse workers)
  ❖ has a low cap (112,000) per year but Sec. of Ag has authority to adjust it if necessary
  ❖ Moves the program to Dept. of Agriculture
  ❖ Provides a path to legalization for current workforce

U.S. House

• Bipartisan ‘gang of 7’ expected to introduce a comprehensive immigration reform bill
  ❖ Includes the principles of ag reform agreement included in Senate bill

U. S. House of Representatives

• Approximately 92 bills introduced relating to immigration reform

The Agricultural Employer Assured Access to Labor Act of 2013
  ❖ Significant improvement over H-2A program
  ❖ Hard cap of 500,000
  ❖ Moves program to Dept. of Agriculture
  ❖ No provisions for current undocumented workforce

What’s at Stake?

• Farmers face a critical shortage of legally authorized and experienced workers.
  • This negatively impacts not only our competitiveness but local economies and jobs
  • Every farm worker sustains two to three off-farm but farm dependent jobs
  • Landmark agreement between UFW and the Ag Workforce Coalition helps meet the labor needs of agriculture now and in the future!
• Congressman,
  We urge your support for immigration reform legislation to address this crisis!

IF YOU DON’T MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD

NO ONE WILL LISTEN!!