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June 21, 2018

Members of the U.S. House of Representatives Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

Later today, the House of Representatives is expected to consider H.R. 4760, the SAF Act. Title II of this legislation, known as the AG Act, authorizes a new agricultural guest worker program and goes a long way toward fixing the biggest problem we face in agriculture: a shortage of agricultural labor that limits our ability to produce.

Judiciary Committee Chairman Goodlatte has drafted changes that clearly improve the AG Act for agricultural producers. Now that those changes have been incorporated into the measure, members of the House are being given a rare opportunity to support U.S. agriculture at a time it is desperate for an agricultural labor solution.

We urge members to take this opportunity, vote in favor of the AG Act and continue to work with the agricultural community in crafting a final bill that addresses all our needs, particularly those affecting our current workers.

The American Farm Bureau will continue to work for improved provisions for those who are helping to sustain our sector today. While those workers should not be granted an unfair advantage over others, we must recognize the important contribution they are making to sustaining farms and ranches across the country and provide them the best possible path to legalization.

But those changes cannot be made if H.R. 4760 fails and the legislative process comes to a halt.

H.R. 4760 is broad legislation and includes many provisions related to the diversity visa lottery, DACA, and other matters on which Farm Bureau does not take a position. Our members, however, desperately need a solution to our labor concerns. Again, this is the biggest limiting factor we face in agriculture today.

It is critical for the House to take a stand in support of U.S. agriculture and move this legislation forward for consideration in the Senate.

Sincerely,

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Zippy Duvall President