

Statement of the Agriculture Workforce Coalition on the Reintroduction of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act

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Washington, D.C. (May 7, 2025)—"With the reintroduction of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act, the Agriculture Workforce Coalition commends Reps. Newhouse and Lofgren for their leadership on this issue. But let's be clear: reviving a bill negotiated in 2019 falls short of what today's farm labor crisis demands. Farmers need a solution that reflects current realities and keeps their operations viable.

"The agricultural industry looks quite different today than it did six years ago. Between natural disasters, falling commodity prices, soaring input and labor costs, and additional regulatory burdens, many producers today have gone out of business. As such, we believe that a straightforward reintroduction of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act as written does not fundamentally make the reforms needed to keep our agricultural producers in business. Much like farm bills are updated every five years in recognition of the changing conditions faced by ag producers, so too should an ag labor bill that was first drafted six years ago.

"America's farmers are in the grips of a worsening labor crisis that threatens our domestic food supply. Despite fast-rising wages and increased reliance on the H-2A guest worker program, growers across the country are struggling to find enough workers to plant, tend, and harvest their crops and care for their animals. The problem is multifaceted: an aging domestic workforce, scant interest from U.S.-born workers, and a guest worker program that remains too costly, seasonal, and bureaucratic for many operations.

"We look forward to continuing working with Reps. Newhouse and Lofgren – and all Members of Congress – to pass legislation that keeps the future of farmers and American agriculture viable."

About the AWC

The Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC) brings together organizations representing the diverse needs of agricultural employers across the country. AWC serves as the unified voice of agriculture in the effort to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers and growers have access to a stable and secure workforce now and in the future.