

The Honorable John Curtis  
125 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Curtis,

Thank you for listening to the labor concerns of agricultural producers in Utah. The Utah Farm Bureau Federation supports your State-Sponsored Visa Pilot Program Act. As a grass roots organization, we fundamentally believe in the value of locally driven solutions. This bill allows states to customize programs to address the needs of employers and workers in the agricultural sector. Utah agriculture has not been able to adequately access and retain labor under the current federal visa program.

Seasonal agricultural workers and employers need flexibility to move workers from one employer to another as the season progresses. Utah Farm Bureau welcomes the opportunity to work with the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food to create and implement effective programs that meet the needs of the agricultural community. Many of our producers have agricultural interests in multiple states. This bill would greatly benefit agriculture by allowing Utah to enter into pacts with other states to share workers.

Each agricultural industry in Utah has been limited by the current federal visa program. By allowing Utah to participate in a visa pilot program, our state could develop and implement a plan to address the unique needs of each industry. Industries with year-round workers are in desperate need of visa reform.

Thank you again for your continued support of Utah agriculture. Please let us know how we can assist you.

Sincerely,



Ron Gibson

President, Utah Farm Bureau Federation