



# LIUNA!

March 15, 2021

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United States House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the more than 500,000 members of the Laborers' International Union of North America (LIUNA), I want to express our support for H.R. 1603, the bipartisan Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

Workers in agricultural industries, like those in all other industries, must have a path to legal immigration status and citizenship. H.R. 1603 does just that, providing security for millions of farmworkers and their families. This in turn will lead to better wages and working conditions for a group of workers who has historically been subject to horrific abuses.

H.R. 1603 also specifies that employers who try to misuse the H-2A program in industries covered by a different guest worker visa program (H-2B), including construction and landscape, cannot do so. LIUNA is pleased that the House bill includes language in the H-2A program requirements for the Secretary of Labor to investigate and prevent fraud in the H-2A program, as well as to ensure that employers cannot use H-2A workers if the majority of the worker's duties are related to construction.

While LIUNA is supporting H.R. 1603, we want to be clear that while many of these reforms may make sense in the agricultural industry, it does not mean that all of the bill's provisions are necessary or helpful for other guest worker visa programs or workers in other industries. Historically, agricultural workers have been treated under different rules and laws than those in other industries, both permanent and guest workers. All of the reforms in H.R. 1603 for the H-2A program may well not work for the H-2B program, for example. The H-2B guest worker program is commonly abused by employers in the landscape and construction industries to deny workers already in the U.S. access to jobs and to exploit workers both in and out of the U.S. The H-2B program must be significantly reformed in ways that will address the specific abuses of our union's construction and landscape members and foreign workers alike. LIUNA looks forward to working with Congress on H-2B reform in the near future.

For decades, LIUNA has fought for comprehensive immigration reform, which remains our goal. While we work toward that end, LIUNA supports efforts, including H.R. 1603, to give vulnerable workers and their families, who have suffered historic exploitation, a path to security and citizenship. LIUNA asks that you vote for H.R. 1603, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act.

With kind regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

**TERRY O'SULLIVAN**  
General President

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