

June 29, 2026

Dear Members of Congress:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we urge you to oppose the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act (SAWA), which will be introduced by Representative GT Thompson in the upcoming days. We are deeply concerned that SAWA will further the Trump administration's wage cuts regulation, harming farm workers and other workers. And represents executive overreach, allowing this administration to rewrite entire laws and rescind protections.

The SAWA will:

- Expand the flawed H-2A program which ties workers to their employer controlled non-immigrant visas and leaves workers vulnerable to wage theft, unsafe conditions, and retaliation.
- Expand the definition of agriculture so that other, non-agricultural employers can use the H-2A program, displacing other kinds of workers.
 - Including workers in pine straw gathering, aquaculture, processing of seafood, equine training, and meat and poultry processing.
- Harm U.S. farm workers and drive them deeper into poverty and economic insecurity.
- Make permanent key provisions of the Trump administration's Department of Labor (DOL) wage cuts regulation, which is currently being litigated in federal court.
 - The last time that the Trump administration issued a similar rule, the same federal court ruled that it was unlawful in 2020.
- Specifically, SAWA would codify provisions of the DOL regulation, which transfers wages from workers to employers by \$3-7 dollars an hour, depending on the state, by allowing employers to charge H-2A workers for housing, and ensuring that over 90 percent of farm workers will receive the lowest 17th percentile of wages.
- Expand the H-2A program to year-round jobs, which would displace U.S. farm workers from some of the most desirable, stable jobs with benefits in the industry.
- Gives the Secretary of Agriculture the authority to unilaterally expand the definition of agriculture and further expand the H-2A program.

We are also concerned about the legality of SAWA. One provision allows the DOL Secretary to "modify the requirements" of the entire federal law that SAWA is amending (8 U.S.C. 1188). This means that the Secretary, who is currently acting and is not confirmed by Congress, could rescind entire legal protections, including the requirement that the H-2A program cannot adversely affect the wages and working conditions of U.S. farm workers.

For these reasons, we urge you to oppose the Securing Agriculture's Workforce Act.

Sincerely,

AFL-CIO
Agricultural Justice Project
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante (CDM)
Civic Empowerment Coalition

Economic Policy Institute
Farm Labor Organizing Committee (FLOC), AFL-CIO
GLAHR Action Network
GreenLatinos
Justice in Motion
MI Familia Vota
National Immigration Law Center
Northwest Workers' Justice Project
Pinos Y Campesinos Unidos Del Noroeste (PCUN)
Polaris
UFW Foundation
United Farm Workers (UFW)
United Food and Commercial Workers International Union