



County of Monterey

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May 13, 2024

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
1401 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
304 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Re: H.R. 4319, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2023– Support

Dear Congressman Panetta and Congresswoman Lofgren:

On behalf of the Board of Supervisors for the County of Monterey, I am writing to express our support for the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2023 (H.R. 4319). This bill creates a workforce solution for America's agriculture industry, one of the most critical sectors of the national economy.

Farmers and ranchers across the United States are in desperate need of a high-quality, reliable workforce, farmworkers need a stable future, and the current H-2A agricultural guestworker program needs meaningful, bipartisan reform. This proposed legislation would reform the H-2A program to provide more flexibility for employers, while ensuring critical protections for workers. It would also establish a program for agricultural workers in the United States to choose to earn legal status through continued agricultural employment and contribution to the U.S. agricultural economy. Finally, the bill focuses on modifications to make the program more responsive and user-friendly for employers and provides access to the program for industries with year-round labor needs. Most importantly, this bill is a thoughtful common-sense solution that offers a balanced solution to a complicated problem.

We appreciate your continued support for the County of Monterey, and on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, I thank you for your leadership on this important issue facing Monterey County residents.

Sincerely,

Glenn Church, Chair
Board of Supervisors

cc: The Honorable Alex Padilla, U.S. Senator for California
The Honorable Laphonza Butler, U.S. Senator for California



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