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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

February 7, 2017

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS

The Honorable Donald J. Trump  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

Please accept my sincere congratulations on your election as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of the United States of America. I look forward to working with you to serve the American people.

I represent California's 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District, a rural region located in the heart of the San Joaquin Valley. Over seventy four percent of the population in my district is of Hispanic descent, and as a result, my constituents will be significantly and directly affected by any forthcoming regulation concerning our immigration system.

As the son of Portuguese immigrants representing a unique and diverse congressional district, I have gained invaluable insight into our broken immigration system. Like you, I firmly believe securing our borders is an issue fundamental to our national security. However, as we begin to address the issue of immigration reform, it is important to modernize and streamline our current legal immigration system, and create a process by which the eleven million undocumented immigrants currently living in our country, who have otherwise followed the law, can earn legal status and continue contributing to our economy and society.

My district plays a unique role in the national economy, as one of the most productive agricultural regions in the world. There are over 250 different commodities grown in the San Joaquin Valley, which equates to a yield of approximately \$47 billion in production every year. As you can imagine, the agriculture industry is the backbone of our local and state economy, and greatly depends on a reliable workforce.

I am especially concerned with the H-2A Temporary Agricultural Workers Visa Program, which is vital to developing a guest worker program that enables access to the reliable agricultural workforce critical to the stability of our nation's food supply. California's 21<sup>st</sup> Congressional District is the number one producer of the nation's fruit, berry, tree nut, and dairy supply, and the second largest producer of vegetables. On a global scale, the State of California is the world's fifth largest supplier of food. Unfortunately, the current agricultural workers visa program is deeply flawed, and is creating an ever growing labor shortage resulting in higher production costs for farmers, and increased food prices for consumers. It is vitally important to American food security that we have an appropriate and flexible agricultural workforce.

Additionally, we must provide consideration for those who were brought to this country as minors, and at no fault of their own. The majority of these young people want nothing more than to be a contributing member of our American community. The benefits of allowing these young people the opportunity to better themselves through education or military service must not be overlooked or undervalued.

Our current immigration system has failed, and it is time the economic and societal repercussions of inaction are taken seriously. This is important, not only for those who come to the United States for the promise of freedom and opportunity, but because the strength of our economy is dependent upon millions of immigrants. For too long, extremes on either side of the aisle have discouraged constructive discussion regarding immigration, but I believe with new executive leadership, now is the time to enact meaningful reform.

I look forward to working with you and your Administration to repair our broken system and would like to respectfully request that I be considered a resource as you continue to work toward solving our immigration crisis.

Sincerely,



David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress