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IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT
HENDRY

VIRGINIA "GINGER"
DELEGAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
United States House of Representatives
2227 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bilirakis:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

The success of the state's agricultural economy is dependent on a stable workforce, and this important piece of legislation would provide needed resources and improvements to the system to ensure that a reliable farm workforce is available to meet the needs of the industry. By simplifying and modernizing the H-2A process, current farmworkers will have a path to obtain legal status and continue making vital contributions to the local, state, and national economies. These reforms are necessary to counter the existing farm labor shortage and to ensure that the nation maintains its place as a major agricultural producer.

Furthermore, the bill would address farmworker housing, which is in dire need of construction, expansion, and rehabilitation in many parts of the country, including Florida. Specifically, the bill would ensure that existing housing stock is preserved for farmworkers while also incentivizing construction of new housing and lowering costs for the employers. These changes will help to ensure that the farmworkers helping to fuel the agricultural economy have safe and affordable housing options for themselves and their families.

In sum, we ask that you join Florida's counties in supporting the bipartisan Farm Work Modernization Act to help bolster local agricultural economies throughout the nation.

If the Florida Association of Counties can be of assistance, please contact Susan Harbin Alford, at (850) 922-4300 or at sharbin@fl-counties.com.

Respectfully,

Davin J. Suggs
FAC Public Policy Director





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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Vern Buchanan
United States House of Representatives
2427 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Buchanan:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Kathy Castor
United States House of Representatives
2052 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Castor:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Charlie Crist
United States House of Representatives
215 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Crist:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Val Demings
United States House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Demings:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ted Deutch
United States House of Representatives
2447 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Deutch:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
United States House of Representatives
404 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC rick

Dear Representative Diaz-Balart:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Neal Dunn
United States House of Representatives
316 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Dunn:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Lois Frankel
United States House of Representatives
2305 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Frankel:

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Matt Gaetz
United States House of Representatives
1721 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Gaetz:

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Alcee Hastings
United States House of Representatives
2353 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Hastings:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Al Lawson
United States House of Representatives
1406 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Lawson:

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Brian Mast
United States House of Representatives
2182 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mast:

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Debbie Mucarsel-Powell
United States House of Representatives
114 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Mucarsel-Powell:

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DELEGAL
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Stephanie Murphy
United States House of Representatives
1710 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Murphy:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

The success of the state's agricultural economy is dependent on a stable workforce, and this important piece of legislation would provide needed resources and improvements to the system to ensure that a reliable farm workforce is available to meet the needs of the industry. By simplifying and modernizing the H-2A process, current farmworkers will have a path to obtain legal status and continue making vital contributions to the local, state, and national economies. These reforms are necessary to counter the existing farm labor shortage and to ensure that the nation maintains its place as a major agricultural producer.

Furthermore, the bill would address farmworker housing, which is in dire need of construction, expansion, and rehabilitation in many parts of the country, including Florida. Specifically, the bill would ensure that existing housing stock is preserved for farmworkers while also incentivizing construction of new housing and lowering costs for the employers. These changes will help to ensure that the farmworkers helping to fuel the agricultural economy have safe and affordable housing options for themselves and their families.

In sum, we ask that you join Florida's counties in supporting the bipartisan Farm Work Modernization Act to help bolster local agricultural economies throughout the nation.

If the Florida Association of Counties can be of assistance, please contact Susan Harbin Alford, at (850) 922-4300 or at sharbin@fl-counties.com.

Respectfully,

Davin J. Suggs
FAC Public Policy Director





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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Bill Posey
United States House of Representatives
2150 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Posey:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Francis Rooney
United States House of Representatives
120 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rooney:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable John Rutherford
United States House of Representatives
1711 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Rutherford:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Donna Shalala
United States House of Representatives
1320 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Shalala:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Darren Soto
United States House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Soto:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ross Spano
United States House of Representatives
224 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Spano:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Greg Steube
United States House of Representatives
521 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Steube:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Michael Waltz
United States House of Representatives
216 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Waltz:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Debbie Wasserman Schultz
United States House of Representatives
1114 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wasserman Schultz:

The Florida Association of Counties respectfully requests your support for H.R. 5038, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2019. Agriculture is the second biggest economic driver in Florida, accounting for \$160 billion in sales revenues and \$60 billion in foreign and domestic exports. Additionally, agriculture and related industries in the state provide employment opportunities for millions of residents, representing nearly fifteen percent of all employment in the state.

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December 7, 2019

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Daniel Webster
United States House of Representatives
1210 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Webster:

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Frederica Wilson
United States House of Representatives
2445 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Wilson:

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

The Honorable Ted Yoho
United States House of Representatives
1730 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Yoho:

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