

**Rahbar, Kimia**

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**Subject:** FW: Ag Letter on Judiciary Committee Consideration of HR 2640  
**Attachments:** image001.png; AWC Letter to House Judiciary on HR 2640 FINAL DOC.pdf

**From:** Mary Nowak <[mnowak@ncfc.org](mailto:mnowak@ncfc.org)>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, April 19, 2023 10:05 AM  
**To:** Mary Nowak <[mnowak@ncfc.org](mailto:mnowak@ncfc.org)>  
**Subject:** Ag Letter on Judiciary Committee Consideration of HR 2640

Good morning,

The Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC) wanted to express our opposition to the consideration of the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023 (H.R. 2640) without concurrent, meaningful legislation to address the labor crisis faced by America's farmers, ranchers and growers. As organizations serving as the unified voice of agriculture in the effort to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers and growers have access to a stable and secure workforce now and in the future, we believe that the reforms envisioned in H.R. 2640 relative to mandatory E-Verify, on their own, would cause agricultural production to fall by \$60 billion dollars, and food prices to increase by 5-6 percent. This would be crushing to an already struggling and vulnerable industry.

A full copy of the letter is attached. The AWC remains committed to working with the House Judiciary Committee members and others to develop legislation that addresses agriculture's labor needs.

Thank you,  
Mary

**Mary Nowak**  
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April 19, 2023

The Honorable Jim Jordan, Chairman  
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler, Ranking Member  
House Committee on the Judiciary  
2138 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan and Ranking Member Nadler:

We, the Agriculture Workforce Coalition (AWC), are writing in opposition to the consideration of the Border Security and Enforcement Act of 2023 (H.R. 2640) without concurrent, meaningful legislation to address the labor crisis faced by America's farmers, ranchers and growers. As organizations serving as the unified voice of agriculture in the effort to ensure that America's farmers, ranchers and growers have access to a stable and secure workforce now and in the future, we believe that the reforms envisioned in H.R. 2640 relative to mandatory E-Verify, on their own, would cause agricultural production to fall by \$60 billion dollars, and food prices to increase by 5-6 percent. This would be crushing to an already struggling and vulnerable industry.

Mandatory E-Verify without workable solutions for both the domestic workforce and our H-2A employers puts these American jobs, and the economies of communities across the country, in jeopardy. As we have repeatedly stated, agriculture faces unprecedented challenges from rapidly rising costs, many of which are imposed by the federal government, as well as competition from imported agricultural products typically produced at a lower cost. American agriculture relies heavily on foreign-born workers due to the extremely limited supply of domestic farm labor. Continued inaction by Congress in light of these realities will mean more fields lying fallow, more farmers losing their livelihoods and fewer of the foods we eat being grown in America.

The economic impacts of this will spread far beyond the farm gate as Americans working in industry sectors both upstream and downstream of the farm will see their jobs threatened. Studies have shown that each hired farm employee supports 2 to 3 full-time American jobs in the food processing, transportation, farm equipment, marketing, retail and other sectors.

The path forward is clear—Congress should pass a solution that addresses both our current agricultural workforce and modernizes our guest worker program to meet future needs. Only then can we support the implementation of a mandatory E-Verify policy. The AWC remains committed to working with the House Judiciary Committee members and others to develop legislation that addresses agriculture's labor needs.

Sincerely,

American Farm Bureau Federation

AmericanHort

Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association

International Fresh Produce Association

National Council of Agricultural Employers

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives

National Farmers Union

National Milk Producers Federation

National Pork Producers Council

National Potato Council

USA Farmers

U.S. Apple Association

Western Growers Association