

February 11, 2021

The Honorable Zoe Lofgren
Chair, Subcommittee on Immigration and Citizenship
House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairwoman Lofgren,

On behalf of the more than 13,000 dairy farm-owners of Dairy Farmers of America (DFA), thank you for your leadership in addressing immigration reform and for holding today's hearing entitled *The U.S. Immigration System: The Need For Bold Reforms*. While we understand today's hearing is not focused on the needs of agriculture, we urge you to continue efforts to improve the agriculture sector's opportunities to secure a stable workforce through a viable agricultural visa program.

DFA, a farmer-owned dairy cooperative, is the nation's largest and most diverse manufacturer of dairy products. With more than 425 facilities around the country, which includes processing plants, laboratories, administrative offices, warehouses and transportation depots, all which support the success of our family farmer-owners across the United States, we take seriously our responsibility to provide safe, high-quality and nutritious milk and other dairy products to consumers. As evidenced during this unprecedented time, nutritious dairy is a staple in American's diets and has been relied upon as part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's feeding and nutrition programs. Additionally, milk is one of the top products requested by food banks, which have been overwhelmed with increased demand as a result of the pandemic.

Despite the importance of dairy in the diet of American's and the acknowledgement that the farming community is essential to the critical infrastructure of the nation, our farmer-owners remain challenged daily by the lack of an available workforce.

Under your leadership last year, the Farm Workforce Modernization Act passed the House of Representatives with strong bipartisan support. This bill was a critical first step in providing agriculture some relief by developing a workable visa program to address those with year-round labor needs. We urge the reintroduction of this measure so that family farms around the country can have surety and access to the labor force they need.

Dairy farmers and their employees are proud to produce nature's most perfect food. It is critical that Congress address this issue this year.

Thank you again for your leadership. We look forward to working with you on this issue and others that impact the success of our nation's dairy farmers.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Klippenstein
Senior Vice President, Government, Industry and Community Affairs

