



Janet Murguía, President

National Office
Raul Yzaguirre Building
1126 16th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20036
Phone: 202.785.1670
Fax: 202.776.1792
www.nclr.org

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Dear Senator:

On behalf of the National Council of La Raza (NCLR), the largest national Hispanic civil rights and advocacy organization in the U.S., I ask that you support the bipartisan AgJOBS farmworker immigration compromise in the Senate Judiciary Committee's immigration bill and oppose any amendments not supported by AgJOBS' primary sponsors. AgJOBS is the product of years of careful negotiations between growers and farmworkers and provides a realistic, thoughtful solution to the problems encountered by those who harvest our nation's crops and those who employ them.

NCLR is particularly concerned with amendments submitted by Senator Chambliss, which would render the AgJOBS legislation unworkable for farmworkers and employers and make it fundamentally unfair in many ways.

The Chambliss amendments would eliminate the opportunity for farmworkers to earn permanent resident status and instead would create an unworkable "report to deport" program. His proposal offers no prospect for stabilizing the workforce through permanent residency. For those workers who might have had an interest in becoming blue-card guestworkers under his proposal, the obstacles - including heavy fines and unrealistic work requirements - would make the program inaccessible.

The Chambliss amendments would also eliminate important labor protections in the H-2A temporary foreign agricultural worker program. Most notably, Senator Chambliss proposes to slash wage protections for U.S. workers and foreign guestworkers.

Please support AgJOBS and oppose the Chambliss amendments. Contact Michele Waslin, Director of Immigration Policy Research, at mwaslin@nclr.org if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Janet Murguía

Janet Murguía
President and CEO

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LA RAZA: The Hispanic People of the New World