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**More than 200 Organizations Sign on to Letter
Opposing Rep. Goodlatte's Immigration Bill**

*Cite Damaging Implications of the Bill's Guestworker Program
in a Letter Sent to House Members*

WASHINGTON, DC – Farmworker Justice and the United Farm Workers, with more than 200 other organizations, sent a letter to House members today stating their opposition to the anti-immigrant and anti-worker approach to immigration reform in Representative Bob Goodlatte's Agricultural Guestworker Act, HR 1773.

"We strongly oppose Chairman Goodlatte's HR 1773 as an unworkable, anti-immigrant and anti-worker approach to our nation's immigration problems. Relegating hard-working farmworkers to a permanent second class status apart from their families is contrary to our nation's core values of freedom, equality and family unity," reads the letter.

Goodlatte's bill would allow employers to bring as many as 500,000 new agricultural workers into the country every year for seasonal as well as year-round work. The program offers minimal protections to U.S. workers against competition from these foreign workers, while imposing low wages and poor working conditions on guestworkers, who would have minimal legal remedies for violations of program requirements. The bill is fundamentally flawed because it fails to provide a roadmap to citizenship for undocumented farmworkers and their families.

"This bill stands in stark opposition to the Senate-passed bill which includes the balanced agricultural stakeholder agreement reached by the United Farm Workers and the Agricultural Workforce coalition, with the support of a bipartisan group of Senators. The hard-fought stakeholder agreement represents a win for agricultural employers, for farmworkers and for our national interest in a secure, safe food supply."

Farmworker Justice and the United Farm Workers urge members of the House to oppose Goodlatte's bill and instead support comprehensive immigration reform that includes the agricultural stakeholder agreement and a path to citizenship for the 11 million undocumented people in the United States.

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Farmworker Justice, based in Washington, D.C., is a nonprofit organization that seeks to empower migrant and seasonal farmworkers to improve their living and working conditions, immigration status, health, occupational safety and access to justice. www.farmworkerjustice.org

United Farm Workers of America founded in 1962 by Cesar Chavez, is the nation's first successful and largest farm workers union currently active in 10 states. The UFW continues to organize in major agricultural industries across the nation. Many recent UFW-sponsored laws and regulations aide farm workers; in California, the first state regulation in the U.S. prevents further heat deaths of farm workers. The UFW is also pushing its historic bipartisan and broadly backed immigration reform bill.