November 17, 2026

The Honorable Brooke Rollins
Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Ave. S.W.
Washington, DC 20250

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary of Homeland Security
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Rollins, Secretary Mullins, and Government Partners,

Pennsylvania's agricultural industry has experienced and is monitoring increased US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) activity throughout the Commonwealth.

We advocate for a secure border and respect the responsibility of federal agencies to enforce the law. However, we are concerned that employees with legal status have been detained in recent actions and aggressive enforcement has caused workers with status to miss work due to fears of being caught in farm-targeted actions.

Poultry producers, dairy farms, livestock operations, fruit, vegetable and mushroom growers, food processors, and other agribusinesses depend on a stable workforce to care for animals, grow produce, ensure food safety, process commodities, and keep supply chains functioning efficiently and effectively. Sudden workforce disruptions can create immediate animal-welfare, operational, and economic consequences that extend well beyond any individual business and ultimately reach the consumer and impact on our food supply.

Due to an aging and declining population, and a lack of interest on behalf of many native-born Americans, it is essential that our industry be able to utilize an immigrant workforce. In sum, our immigrant employees are not taking jobs from native born individuals.

For decades, the PA Agriculture industry has advocated for thoughtful, bipartisan reform that embodies respect for these critical employees and strengthens border security while creating legal, reliable pathways for agricultural labor. We need an immigration system that reflects the needs of our modern and diverse agriculture industry.

While we wait for legislative solutions, we urge state and federal officials to conduct enforcement actions that prioritize dangerous criminals and not essential workers who provide much of the food Americans eat. Further, we ask that enforcement be carried out in a lawful, orderly, and transparent manner, with respect for due process, and with clear communication with affected employers and communities.

Sincerely,



Christian Herr, President of PennAg Industries Association
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In addition, the following farms, agribusinesses and organizations have signed on and concur with this letter:

American Mushroom Institute
Brubaker Farms
Brummer's Happy Breeze Farm
Church World Service - Lancaster
Clemens Food Group
Empire Kosher – Table Trust Brands
FreeBird- Table Trust Brands
Hanover Foods, Inc.
Hershey Ag
Kreider Farms
Leidy's - The Wenger Group
Longenecker's Hatchery
Lutheran Advocacy Ministry in Pennsylvania (LAMPa)
Mahantongo Game Farms
Nicholas Meat LLC
Paragon Poultry
Pasa Sustainable Agriculture
Pennsylvania Co-Operative Potato Growers
Pennsylvania Farmers Union
Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association
Pennsylvania Pest Management



Pennsylvania State Grange
Pennsylvania Vegetable Growers Association
The Pennsylvania Winery Association
Plainville Farms - The Wenger Group
Professional Dairy Managers of Pennsylvania
Quality Greenhouses & Perennial Farm, Inc.
Star Rock Farms
State Horticultural Association of Pennsylvania (SHAP)
The Wenger Group
Versant Strategies
Wolgemuth Brothers

cc: Pennsylvania Congressional Delegation
Governor Shapiro, Pennsylvania Governor
Secretary Russell Redding, Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture