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Domestic Agricultural production, especially the perishable fruit, vegetable and hort. specialties face labor supply challenges unprecedented in decades. Congress is poised to pass legislation mandating use of the federal e-Verify program for all employers. Some states have passed e-Verify requirements and others are proposed. If domestic agricultural production is to survive mandatory e-Verify requirements, there must first be provision to allow transition time from our existing workforce into a workable seasonal labor program. Despite declarations from Congress, there is NOT now a workable, legal, program to provide the necessary safety-net and supply the numbers of workers needed, to sustain American domestic food and horticulture production.

NCAE proposes to raise \$300,000 to provide the documented, credible research from government databases and an employer survey needed to successfully convince Congress to provide us with agricultural labor relief. We need your participation in funding this effort.

All facets of American agriculture; suppliers, growers, shippers, and others must participate financially and with lobbying support to underscore the need for a reliable and legal workforce.

NCAE's plan includes three separate phases including:

- Analysis, by qualified researchers, of information currently available from DOL, USDA, and others to identify and substantiate trends in grower needs vs. approvals, numbers of employer investigations of agriculture vs. other businesses, penalties, predictability, and fairness of the current regulatory processes.
- A statistically significant survey of H-2A employers to yield information needed to convince Congress that there is NOT a workable legal safety net to provide workers.
- Packaging the information into a format that presents this compelling story to Congress and other policy makers in a format that they cannot continue to ignore.

This effort is unprecedented and requires unprecedented cost sharing. If you are part of American agriculture, growing, selling, or providing services to producers and delivering product to consumers, you have a major stake in this effort. The future of your business is at stake.

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