

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 7, 2012

The Honorable Thomas Harkin  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
Chairman  
430 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Harkin:

We write to request the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hold a hearing on the U.S. Department of Labor's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (76 Fed. Reg. 54836) regarding youth workers in the agriculture industry.

As members of the Committee, we are committed to ensuring the safety of all workers. We appreciate and support the Department's efforts to promote and enforce safe workplaces across the country.

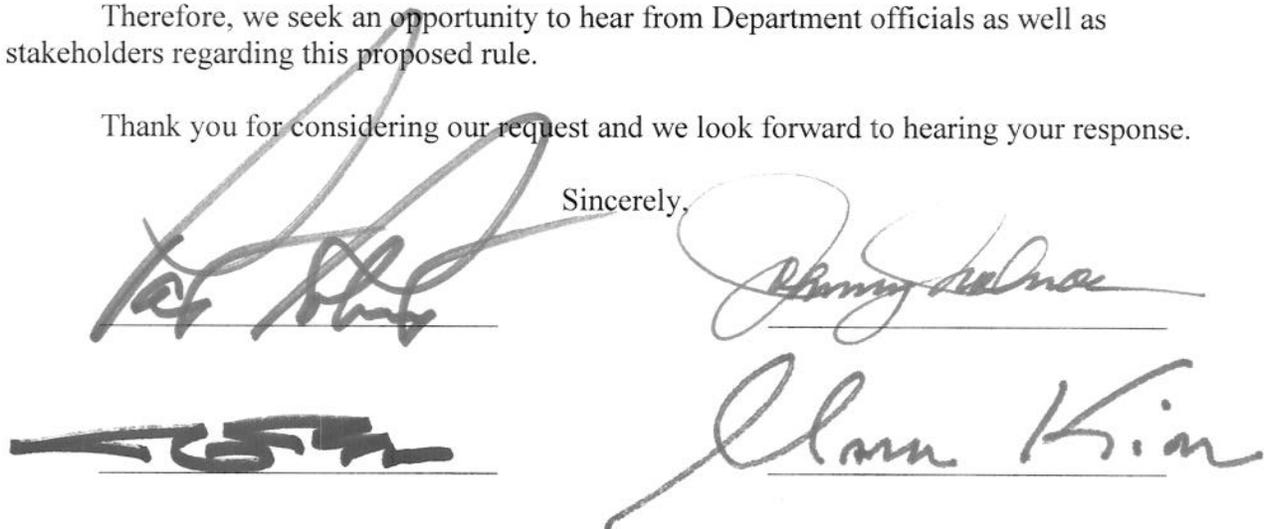
However, we are concerned with overly burdensome regulations promulgated by this Administration. The Department's proposed rule would have far reaching consequences on farming operations, ranches, agricultural education programs, and the longstanding tradition of youth working in agriculture.

We have heard repeatedly from our constituents that they are very concerned about the impact this unneeded proposed rule would place on their families and rural businesses. They also question the need for this new rule, as ensuring the safety and wellbeing of youth workers is their top priority. Furthermore, the Department has received over 10,000 comments from the American people regarding this proposed rule and we believe it is important for the Committee to exercise its oversight responsibilities in this manner.

Therefore, we seek an opportunity to hear from Department officials as well as stakeholders regarding this proposed rule.

Thank you for considering our request and we look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,



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