

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Robert Aderholt  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  
2358-B - Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS & Education  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Aderholt and Ranking Member DeLauro:

We write with shared concerns regarding the annual adjustment to the Adverse Effect Wage Rate (AEWR). Now in 2025, the H-2A labor rates paid by agricultural employers have become more unaffordable, and it will certainly increase in 2026 as well. The new rates put further financial strain on farm operations of all sizes, and we urge you to include an H-2A wage freeze in Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations legislation.

The national average AEWR has already more than doubled over the past two decades, making agricultural guest labor unaffordable for farm employers and resulting in higher consumer costs. The 2025 national average AEWR is \$18.12, which is upwards of a mean 3 percent increase over 2024. With the AEWR varying by region, some states have seen a nearly 10% increase. Meanwhile, producers in Canada pay closer to \$12 per hour for fieldworkers, or even approximately \$1-2 per hour in Mexico. This uneven playing field greatly disadvantages our domestic producers.

For farmers and ranchers who use H-2A, the skyrocketing AEWR will only compound inflated input costs like energy and fertilizer, other guest worker expenses like transportation and housing, and burdens from several impending federal regulations and fees. USDA data shows that hired farm labor costs account for nearly 15 percent of total cash expenses. More labor-intensive industries will be hardest-hit, including specialty crop growers, who already spend over 40 percent of their total cash expenses on labor alone. If we do nothing, many of our constituents will be forced to shutter their businesses, despite good-faith efforts to ensure our national food security and feed families across our nation.

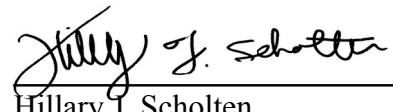
While more permanent solutions are needed to address the AEWR's past impact and its future trajectory, we request that the Fiscal Year 2026 appropriations bill prohibit funds from being used to implement a wage larger than the January 2023 wage rate or otherwise freeze the H-2A wage rates at January 2023 levels. Thank you for your committee's efforts to include this bipartisan policy in last year's bill and for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



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Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



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Hillary J. Scholten  
Member of Congress



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Eric A. "Rick" Crawford  
Member of Congress



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Patrick Ryan  
Member of Congress



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Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



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Zach Nunn  
Member of Congress



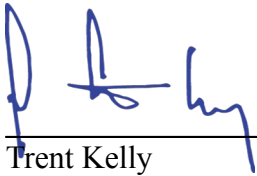
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Brad Finstad  
Member of Congress



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Maria Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



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Trent Kelly  
Member of Congress



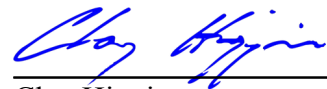
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David Rouzer  
Member of Congress



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Daniel Webster  
Member of Congress



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Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress



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Michael Cloud  
Member of Congress



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Mike Ezell  
Member of Congress



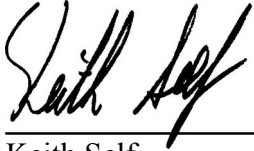
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Glenn "GT" Thompson  
Member of Congress



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Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



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Keith Self  
Member of Congress



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Morgan Luttrell  
Member of Congress



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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress



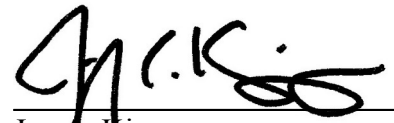
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Mark B. Messmer  
Member of Congress



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Russ Fulcher  
Member of Congress



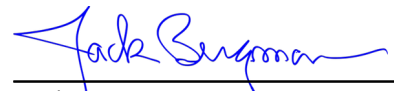
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Jen A. Riggans  
Member of Congress



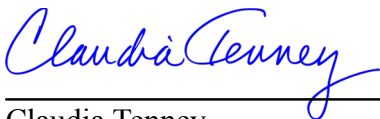
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Don Bacon  
Member of Congress



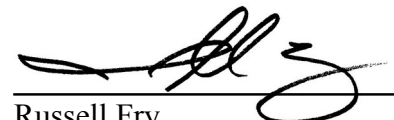
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Jack Bergman  
Member of Congress



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Claudia Tenney  
Member of Congress



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Russell Fry  
Member of Congress



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Mike Bost  
Member of Congress



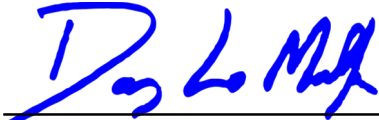
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Michael T. McCaul  
Member of Congress



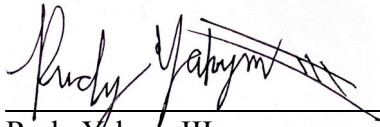
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Jeff Hurd  
Member of Congress



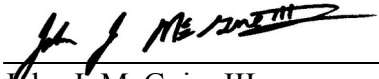
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Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



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Rudy Yakym III  
Member of Congress



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John J. McGuire III  
Member of Congress



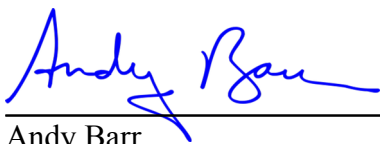
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John Joyce, M.D.  
Member of Congress



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Cory Mills  
Member of Congress



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Andy Barr  
Member of Congress



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Dan Meuser  
Member of Congress



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David Kustoff  
Member of Congress



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Robert E. Latta  
Member of Congress



Gabe Evans  
Member of Congress



Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



Nicholas A. Langworthy  
Member of Congress



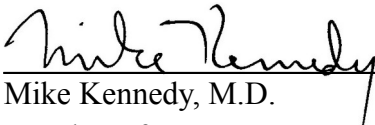
Richard Hudson  
Member of Congress



Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Josh Riley  
Member of Congress



Mike Kennedy, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Neal P. Dunn, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Mike Haridopolos  
Member of Congress



John Rose  
Member of Congress



Michelle Fischbach  
Member of Congress

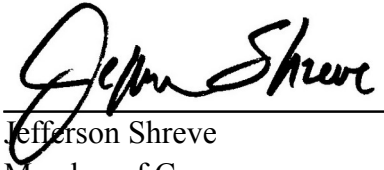


Adrian Smith  
Member of Congress



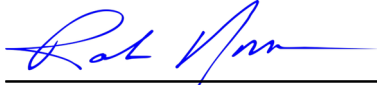
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James Comer  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Shreve  
Member of Congress



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Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



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Dusty Johnson  
Member of Congress



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Nancy Mace  
Member of Congress




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Marlin A. Stutzman  
Member of Congress



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Barry Moore  
Member of Congress



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Scott DesJarlais, M.D.  
Member of Congress



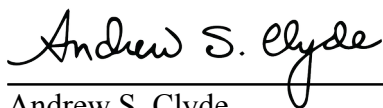
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Tom Barrett  
Member of Congress



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Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress



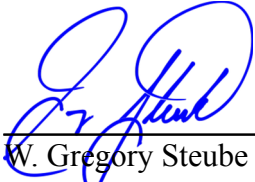
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Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



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Barry Loudermilk  
Member of Congress



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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



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Gary J. Palmer  
Member of Congress



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William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress



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Pat Fallon  
Member of Congress



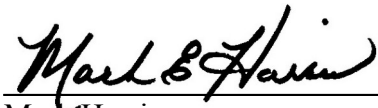
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Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress



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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



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Mark Harris  
Member of Congress



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Pete Stauber  
Member of Congress



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August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



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Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



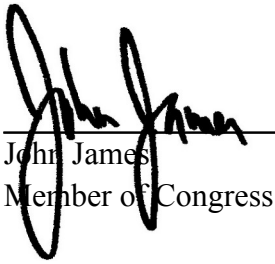
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Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



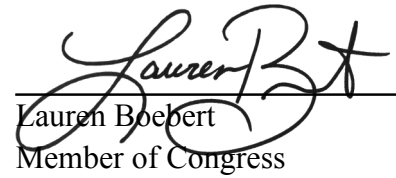
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Ronny L. Jackson  
Member of Congress



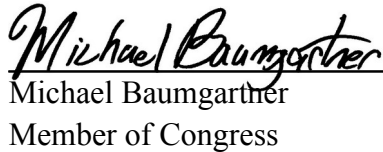
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John James  
Member of Congress



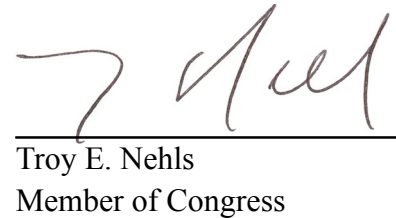
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Lauren Boebert  
Member of Congress



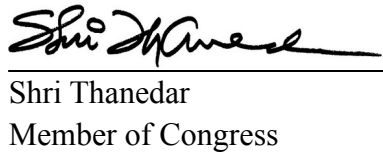
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Michael Baumgartner  
Member of Congress



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Troy E. Nehls  
Member of Congress



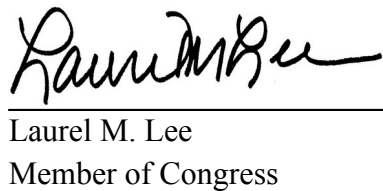
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Shri Thanedar  
Member of Congress



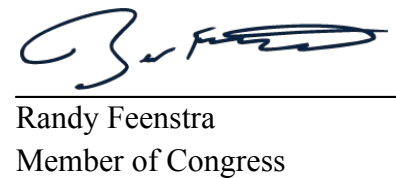
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Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



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Laurel M. Lee  
Member of Congress



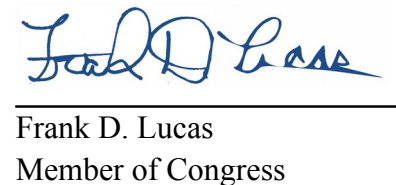
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Randy Feenstra  
Member of Congress



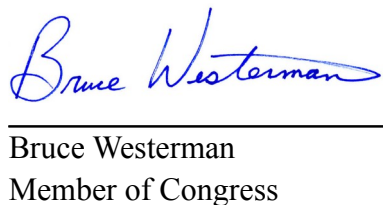
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Erin Houchin  
Member of Congress



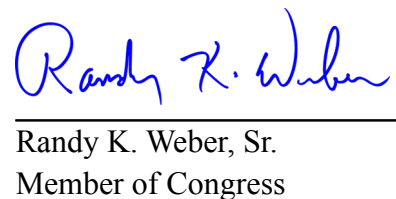
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Frank D. Lucas  
Member of Congress



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Bruce Westerman  
Member of Congress



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Randy K. Weber, Sr.  
Member of Congress





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Nathaniel Moran  
Member of Congress



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Addison P. McDowell  
Member of Congress



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Mike Rogers  
Member of Congress



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John W. Mannion  
Member of Congress



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Roger Williams  
Member of Congress



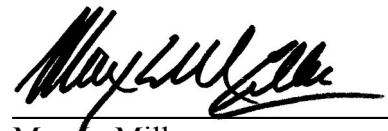
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Sheri Biggs  
Member of Congress



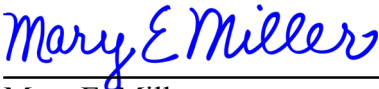
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Mike Kelly  
Member of Congress



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Max L. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Mary E. Miller  
Member of Congress



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Brad Knott  
Member of Congress



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Kevin Hern  
Member of Congress



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Vern Buchanan  
Member of Congress



Craig A. Goldman  
Member of Congress




Monica De La Cruz  
Member of Congress



Darin LaHood  
Member of Congress



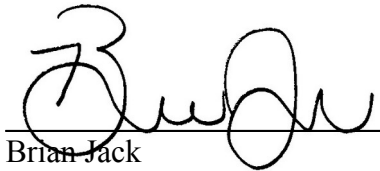
Brett Guthrie  
Member of Congress



Anna Paulina Luna  
Member of Congress



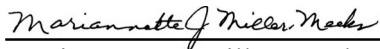
Diana Harshbarger  
Member of Congress



Brian Jack  
Member of Congress



Julie Fedorchak  
Member of Congress



Mariannette J. Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden  
Member of Congress

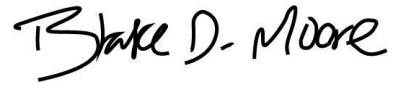


Troy Balderson  
Member of Congress



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Michael V. Lawler  
Member of Congress



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Blake D. Moore  
Member of Congress



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Pat Harrigan  
Member of Congress



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Mike Collins  
Member of Congress



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French Hill  
Member of Congress



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Glenn Grothman  
Member of Congress