

# Take Action Today, Legislative Correspondence Is as Easy as One, Two, Three

Dear Senator Coleman:

On behalf of my own business, and the many thousands of small businesses and family farms and golf courses across America, I am writing to urge your full support for passage of the Agricultural Job Opportunity, Benefits, and Security Act, or AgJOBS.

This historic legislation represents the fruit of years of effort by growers, farmers and ranchers, farm worker representatives, and our respective Congressional champions, to solve the unacceptable and worsening labor crisis in agriculture.

America needs immigration reforms that are compassionate, realistic and economically sensible. This is a rare chance to set aside partisan politics, and do something good for the country. There is no better place to start than agriculture. There is no better time than now.

I respectfully urge that you support AgJOBS and please reject any efforts to change this historic and carefully balanced compromise.

Please support all efforts to enact AgJOBS into law now.

For years, leaders in American agriculture have worked to develop a bipartisan solution to the agricultural labor crisis. That solution is called AgJOBS, or S.340, which was recently reintroduced in the Senate with almost 20 original cosponsors.

Unfortunately, Sen. Chambliss has offered two amendments (0117 and 0118) on the minimum wage bill that take a much narrower approach to the issue. The Chambliss approach is untested, and would only help a few while hurting many.

We need real reform that is fair, balanced, and good for everyone. If the Chambliss amendments come up for a vote in the Senate, please oppose them. If AgJOBS is offered as an alternative, please vote to support enactment of AgJOBS.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

Respectfully Yours,  
Jack MacKenzie, Superintendent  
North Oaks Golf Club, North Oaks, MN

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(Editor's Note: Some of you may be asking just how much free time I have to be sending letters to my representatives as well as managing my golf course, participating on various volunteer entities and enjoying my family. The answer may surprise you, about five minutes! The letters to your state reps relevant to local and national issues are already prewritten and available at the MNLA website.)

Dear Mr. MacKenzie:

Thank you for taking the time to contact me concerning the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act (AgJOBS) of 2007 (S. 237).

I believe that improving our border

employer verification, and a guest worker program that allows long-time residents, including agriculture workers, to earn a legalized status.

As you may know, the Agricultural Job Opportunities, Benefits, and Security Act of 2007 was introduced on

*"I have supported comprehensive immigration reform, including strong border and interior enforcement, improved employer verification, and a guest worker program that allows long-time residents, including agriculture workers, to earn a legalized status."*

*— Norm Coleman, United States Senate*

enforcement capabilities must be central to any immigration reform legislation. Our unprotected borders are unacceptable and represent a crisis which must be dealt with decisively and without delay. The President's plan to send National Guard troops to support the border patrol should help establish some credibility that we are serious about controlling our borders and is already proving effective at deterring illegal entry. The President will send up to 6,000 National Guard members to assist the Border Patrol with the operation of surveillance systems, analysis of intelligence, and the installation of fences and vehicle barriers. This is a serious commitment to securing the border. To improve border security, I voted for the Secure Fence Act (H.R. 6061), which will result in 700 miles of additional fencing along our Southern border.

**I strongly oppose amnesty for illegal immigrants.** Any legalized status for people already here must not be a blank check that will encourage more people to enter this country illegally. In order to be here, immigrants must undergo background checks, demonstrate proof of employment, possess English proficiency and an understanding of civics, and pay a monetary penalty. Additionally, I do not believe illegal immigrants should receive Social Security benefits associated with work performed while the alien was working in illegal status.

After careful consideration of the legal and security issues involved, I have supported comprehensive immigration reform, including strong border and interior enforcement, improved

January 10, 2007 by Senator Diane Feinstein (D-CA) and was referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee where it awaits further action. This legislation, if implemented correctly, could be a practical solution to fill agricultural worker shortages. Last year alone, over one third of Florida's orange crop was left unpicked due to labor shortages, and growers in California, Washington, and New York all lost substantial portions of their crops due to an insufficient workforce. The reality is that most Americans are simply not interested in these positions.

**Specifically, the AgJOBS bill would require aliens** currently in the United States illegally who have a history of working in the U.S. agriculture sector to come forward and be officially documented. These workers would be required to pay a fine and to work in the agriculture sector for a specified period of time over three to five years. If these requirements are met over the required time period, as certified by the employer, a worker is entitled to seek an adjustment of status. I don't believe AgJOBS would increase the number of immigrants in the U.S. or displace American workers. This legislation would only cover persons in the United States with a documented work history and with employers required to prove that they cannot find U.S. citizens to do the job.

Thank you once again for taking the time to contact me. I appreciate hearing from you and I value your advice.

*-Sincerely,  
Norm Coleman  
United States Senate*