



April 25, 2009

To Whom It May Concern:

NC green industry is comprised of all the various companies and organizations that provide products, services, education, and resources to help keep North Carolina green and beautiful.

**Adding \$8.6 Billion and 151,982 Jobs to the State of North Carolina**

The North Carolina Commercial Flower Growers Association (NCCFGA) expresses their support for the Agriculture Reimbursement of Expenses for Legal Immigrant Employees in Farming legislation introduced in both the North Carolina House and Senate, also referred to as the AgRELIEF Act (H1364 and S881).

Even in the economic downturn, flower growers are finding it difficult to find the workers they need to maintain their farming operations. Because of the shortage of U.S. agricultural workers, many of our growers employ workers through the H2A program.

If H1364 and S881 were to pass this would level the playing field and may encourage more farmers to use the legal H2A program.

NCCFGA is supportive of this cost-share program and commends State government for this proactive step to encourage and assist farmers with hiring legal farm workers.

Sincerely

*Bryan Foushee*

President