



Cherie K. Berry
Commissioner

April 27, 2009

To All Interested Parties,

As Commissioner of Labor, one of my responsibilities is overseeing the inspection of migrant housing. I hear firsthand the stories shared by our farmers. Stories about the difficulty of finding good labor and the skyrocketing cost of labor. Here's a chance to support our farming community.

There is pending legislation at the North Carolina General Assembly that attempts to address this situation. It's called the Agriculture Reimbursement of Expenses for Legal Immigrant Employees in Farming or AgRELIEF Act/Cost Share Program (H1364 and S881).

This legislation is a step in the right direction. I hope all farmers have access to this labor cost share program in order to help them survive these tough economic conditions. This legislation reaffirms that farming is still recognized as a vital part of the economic livelihood and agrarian heritage of our great state.

Sincerely,

Cherie K. Berry
Commissioner