



North Carolina Greenhouse Vegetable Growers Association
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To Whom It May Concern:

North Carolina produces over 10 acres of greenhouse tomatoes which supplies 5% of the US market. Greenhouse vegetables are high quality products and are growing at a rate of 40-50% per year in the US. Greenhouse tomato acres are forecast to double in the next 3 years. Other greenhouse grown vegetables are: cucumbers, lettuce, peppers, herbs and melons.

To meet the supply demand for our products, NC greenhouse growers must have a reliable workforce.

The NC Greenhouse Growers Association 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, greenhouse growers are finding it difficult to find workers they need to maintain their farming operations. Because of the shortage of US 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.

NCGVGA is supportive of this cost-share program and commends State Government for this pro-active step to encourage and assist farmers with hiring legal farm workers.

Cordially,

Faylene Whitaker

President