Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

October 24, 2011

Secretary Hilda Solis
Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

We are writing to request an extension to the comment period for proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act that would affect the ability of farmers and ranchers to hire youth to work in agriculture. This rule, RIN 1235-AA06, would have vast implications for the agriculture industry, and the original 60 days allowed for comment are not enough for the affected parties to express their concerns.

As currently drafted, this proposal contains provisions that affect a wide variety of the sub-sectors within agriculture. These proposed regulations would affect those involved in livestock and grain production, commodity transport, youth agricultural education, and other sectors. It challenges the conventional wisdom of what defines a family farm in the United States. Farmers, ranchers, and all interested parties need time to examine the consequences and allow their voices to be heard accordingly.

We strongly urge you to consider extending the comment period an additional 60 days, until January 1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Rep. Denny Rehberg
Member of Congress

Rep. Rodney Alexander
Member of Congress

Rep. Michele Bachmann
Member of Congress

Rep. Dan Benishek
Member of Congress

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Rep. Rob Bishop
Member of Congress

Rep. Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Rep. Leonard Boswell
Member of Congress

Rep. Bruce Braley
Member of Congress

Rep. Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

Rep. Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Rep. Dennis Cardoza
Member of Congress

Rep. John Carter
Member of Congress

Rep. Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

Rep. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress

Rep. Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Rep. Jeff Denham
Member of Congress

Rep. Sean Duffy
Member of Congress

Rep. Jo Ann Emerson
Member of Congress

Rep. Jeff Flake
Member of Congress

Rep. Jeff Fortenberry
Member of Congress

Rep. Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Rep. Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

Rep. Trey Gowdy
Member of Congress

Rep. Sam Graves
Member of Congress

Rep. Tom Graves
Member of Congress

Rep. Brett Guthrie
Member of Congress

Rep. Gregg Harper
Member of Congress

Rep. Wally Herger
Member of Congress

Rep. Tim Holden
Member of Congress

Rep. Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Rep. Randy Hultgren
Member of Congress

Rep. Lynn Jenkins
Member of Congress

Rep. Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Rep. Tim Johnson
Member of Congress

Rep. Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress

Rep. Ron Kind
Member of Congress

Rep. Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Rep. John Kline
Member of Congress

Rep. James Lankford
Member of Congress

Rep. Tom Latham
Member of Congress

Rep. Dave Loebsack
Member of Congress

Rep. Frank D. Lucas
Member of Congress

Rep. Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Rep. Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

Rep. Dan Lungren
Member of Congress

Rep. Mike McIntyre
Member of Congress

Rep. David McKinley
Member of Congress

Rep. Cathy McMorris Rodgers
Member of Congress

Rep. Candice Miller
Member of Congress

Rep. Devin Nunes
Member of Congress

Rep. Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

Rep. Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Rep. Ron Paul
Member of Congress

Rep. Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress

Rep. Stevan Pearce
Member of Congress

Rep. Collin C. Peterson
Member of Congress

Rep. Thomas Petri
Member of Congress

Rep. Chellie Pingree
Member of Congress

Rep. Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Rep. Tom Reed
Member of Congress

Rep. Phil Roe
Member of Congress

Rep. Todd Rokita
Member of Congress

Rep. Adrian Smith
Member of Congress

Rep. Marlin Stutzman
Member of Congress

Rep. Fred Upton
Member of Congress

Rep. Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Rep. Greg Walden
Member of Congress

Rep. Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Rep. Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Rep. Billy Long
Member of Congress

Rep. Howard Coble
Member of Congress

Rep. Steven LaTourrette
Member of Congress

Rep. Rick Crawford
Member of Congress

Rep. Tim Griffin
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Rep. Larry Kissell
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Rep. Tom McClintock
Member of Congress

Rep. Tim Walz
Member of Congress

Rep. Aaron Schock
Member of Congress