



Craig McNamara
Board President
Owner, Sierra Orchards

November 15, 2017

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Dear Members of the California Congressional Delegation:

Recent changes to federal immigration policy rescinded protections for immigrant youth contained within the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program. We strongly believe that DACA is vital to the economic and cultural prosperity of California and in the absence of comprehensive immigration reform call on Congress to act in protecting the 'Dreamers' of our state.

California is the largest agricultural producer in the nation and is one of the largest employers of agricultural workers. Further, California has the largest number of DACA recipients (197,900 individuals or 28 percent of the national total) and these individuals primarily live within the rural communities of our state. The UFW Foundation reports that California has more DACA recipients in our rural communities than the entire DACA populations in Illinois, New York and Florida.

Agricultural workers and their families contribute significantly to our communities, benefiting who we are as Californians. The Economic Policy Institute – a nonprofit, nonpartisan think tank – estimates that by providing a path to citizenship for undocumented individuals will result in economic gains for the nation as increased earnings by these individuals stimulates demand in the overall economy, creating further job growth.

National immigration initiatives like DACA and the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors Act (DREAM Act) are limited solutions to a much larger issue. Addressing a permanent path to legal status for our undocumented citizens is critical for the prosperity of our nation.

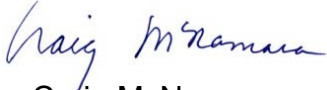


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As the California State Board Food and Agriculture we respectively recommend congressional action on the reinstatement of DACA to protect California's immigrant youth from deportation action and maintain the American Dream for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Craig McNamara". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Craig McNamara
President

cc: The Honorable Jerry Brown, Governor
Nancy McFadden, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Secretary Karen Ross, California Department of Food and Agriculture
Secretary David Lanier, California Labor and Workforce Development Agency
Daniel Torres, Office of Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr.