

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 5, 2016

The Honorable Thomas Perez
Secretary
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20210

Dear Secretary Perez:

It has come to our attention that the Department of Labor has accumulated a significant backlog of H-2A visa labor applications. This backlog has placed Georgia's fruit and vegetable industry, as well as our state's rural communities, in jeopardy. We ask that the necessary steps be taken to expedite these applications so Georgia farmers can continue to provide their products to American consumers.

The specialty crop industry is one of the top industries in Georgia, contributing \$4.5 billion in total economic impact and providing over 31,000 jobs throughout the state. The success of our specialty crop farms tremendously affects our rural communities.

The specialty crop industry relies heavily on H-2A temporary agricultural employment to grow and harvest over 20 different types of fruits and vegetables, which equates to over \$1.772 billion in farm gate value. Without additional labor through the H-2A visa program, this industry will be unable to operate at its full capacity and will ultimately fail if action is not taken.

As Members of Congress representing the state of Georgia, we ask the H-2A labor visa applications of Georgia farmers be expedited before our fruit and vegetable industry suffers irreparable damage.

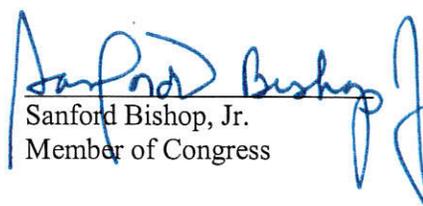
Kindly respond by May 23, 2016.

Sincerely,


Earl L. 'Buddy' Carter
Member of Congress


Johnny Isakson
Member of Congress


David Perdue
Member of Congress


Sanford Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



David Scott
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Tom Graves
Member of Congress



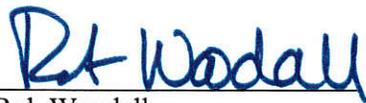
Lynn Westmoreland
Member of Congress



Rick Allen
Member of Congress



Jody Hice
Member of Congress



Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Hank Johnson
Member of Congress