

RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, farmworkers are essential to the nation's food supply and economy and serve as the backbone of California's agricultural industry, performing critical labor that sustains food production and ensures food reaches tables across the country; and

WHEREAS, the federal H-2A visa program permits agricultural employers to hire temporary foreign workers when there are not enough domestic workers available, with the requirement that such employment does not depress wages or working conditions for U.S. workers; and

WHEREAS, the federal government has introduced a policy that would lower wage standards for H-2A workers by categorizing 92 percent of farmworkers as "unskilled," resulting in significantly reduced pay; and

WHEREAS, this policy is projected to reduce wages for farmworkers to levels below current standards, creating the risk of downward pressure on wages for all agricultural workers, including U.S. citizens and lawful residents; and

WHEREAS, federal officials have acknowledged that there are insufficient domestic workers to meet agricultural labor demands, underscoring the continued reliance on immigrant labor in this sector; and

WHEREAS, farmworkers, particularly immigrant workers, often face limited bargaining power and are especially vulnerable to wage suppression and exploitation; and

WHEREAS, reducing wages for essential workers undermines economic stability, weakens labor standards, and contradicts long-standing federal worker protection policies; and

WHEREAS, the City of Los Angeles has consistently supported policies that promote fair wages, worker protections, and economic justice for all workers;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City of Los Angeles hereby opposes the federal action to reduce wages of agricultural workers and urges the United States Department of Labor and the federal government to rescind the proposed changes to the H-2A visa program and uphold fair wage standards that protect both immigrant and domestic farmworkers from wage suppression.

PRESENTED BY:

SECONDED BY:

Monica Rodriguez
MONICA RODRIGUEZ
Councilwoman, 7th District

Amel de Paula

ORIGINAL

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