

October 30, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
President of the United States of America  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20000

The Honorable Thomas J. Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2433 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
S-128 The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Appropriations  
1036 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow  
Chairwoman  
Senate Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
731 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Scott  
Ranking Member  
House Committee on Agriculture  
468 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martin Heinrich  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural  
Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

**RE: Including Relief for Farm Workers in Disaster Relief Legislation**

Dear President Biden, Secretary Vilsack, Majority Leader Schumer, Minority Leader Jeffries,  
Chairwoman Murray, Ranking Member DeLauro, Chairwoman Stabenow, Ranking Member Scott, and  
Chairman Heinrich,

We are writing on behalf of the UFW Foundation, United Farm Workers, organizations that are serving  
communities affected by recent hurricanes, and allies, to respectfully urge that Congress pass and the  
President sign legislation that provides grants to charitable organizations that have experience delivering  
economic aid to farm workers who are suffering from disasters.

Combined, Hurricanes Helene and Milton are expected to cost over \$50 billion and be among the most costly of hurricanes in United States history. They have left communities devastated and struggling to meet basic, everyday needs like food, water, housing, and diapers and baby formula for families. This includes farm workers who labor to put food on our tables every day. For example, entire quintessential crops in Georgia like peaches, pecans, and green vegetables have been destroyed, dramatically affecting the current harvest season and expecting to put farm workers out of work for the next six to 12 months. Because of this, farm workers who put food on our tables are unable to put food on their own families' tables. These challenges are exacerbated by a lack of language access and a lack of accessible, trusted information by farm workers on where they can receive assistance.

Unfortunately, the historical norm is that during natural disasters, federal funding only goes to agricultural employers and does not reach farm workers, with very few exceptions. We ask that Congress and the Biden administration change this in any disaster relief package by including grants to charitable organizations that serve farm workers.

Indeed, when the Biden administration and Congress mobilized to address the lasting economic damage caused by COVID-19, you ensured that this included [relief](#) for farm workers, grocery store, and meatpacking workers, through charitable organizations. During a citrus freeze in 2008, the federal government responded to the subsequent economic damage by creating [grants](#) to charitable organizations to offer impacted farm workers emergency services.

Additionally, the Disaster Relief for Farm Workers Act ([H.R. 8765/S. 4545](#)), would create a model to ensure that assistance reaches farm workers who are affected by a hurricane, flood, drought, excessive heat, health crisis like a pandemic, and other covered disasters that cause workers to lose income or make them unable to work. Hurricanes Helene and Milton are the exact kinds of disasters that this Act contemplates, and the current suffering of farm workers is the exact kind of human harm and economic damage that this Act seeks to address.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge Congress and the Biden administration to continue your leadership by ensuring that farm workers, in addition to agricultural businesses, benefit from an upcoming disaster relief package.

Thank you,

**Georgia, Florida, and North Carolina Organizations:**

Davidson County Local Food Network  
El Futuro es Nuestro  
Farmworker Advocacy Network  
Farmworker Association of Florida  
Florida Legal Services, Inc.  
GALEO Impact Fund  
Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights  
National Association of Social Workers - Florida Chapter

National Association of Social Workers - North Carolina Chapter  
National Association of Social Workers - Georgia Chapter  
NC FIELD, Inc.  
North Carolina Council of Churches  
North Carolina Farmworkers' Project  
North Carolina Justice Center  
Nourish Up  
Rooted Reciprocity LLC  
Second Harvest Food Bank of Northwest North Carolina  
Spiderweb Acre  
Student Action with Farmworkers  
Sur Legal Collaborative  
The Bridge International  
The Guatemalan-Maya Center  
Toxic Free NC  
UFW Foundation  
WNC Food Systems Coalition

**National and Other Organizations:**

A Better Balance  
Alianza Nacional de Campesinas, Inc.  
Association of Farmworker Opportunity Programs (AFOP)  
Ayudando Latinos A Soñar, ALAS  
California Rural Legal Assistance Foundation  
Campesinos Sin Fronteras  
Care in Action  
CASA DEL LLANO, INC  
CATA - The Farmworker Support Committee  
Center for Employment Training  
Central Coast Alliance United for a Sustainable Economy (CAUSE)  
Centro de los Derechos del Migrante, Inc.  
Child Labor Coalition  
Colonias Development Council  
Farm Worker Ministry Northwest  
Farmworker and Landscaper Advocacy Project  
Farmworker Justice  
Food & Water Watch  
Hispanic Federation  
Illinois Coalition for Immigrant and Refugee Rights  
Immigration Hub  
Impact Fund  
La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE)  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Legal Aid Justice Center

Lideres Campesinas  
MESA  
MomsRising/ MamásConPoder  
National Association of Social Workers  
National Consumers League  
National Domestic Workers Alliance  
National Employment Law Project  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
PCUN  
Puente de la Costa Sur  
Slow Food USA  
Slow Food USA Food and Farming Advisory Board  
The National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Association  
The Restaurant Opportunities Centers United (ROC United)  
UnidosUS  
UNITE HERE  
United Farm Workers  
United Migrant Opportunities Services, Inc. (UMOS)  
Workers Center of Central New York