

January 14, 2021

Members of the United States Senate:

As leading organizations representing America's world-class agricultural industry, we join with other national, regional, state, and local groups to urge swift confirmation of Alejandro N. Mayorkas to serve as America's next Secretary of Homeland Security.

The Department of Homeland Security's vast mission touches the lives of everyone within the United States every day. Agriculture in particular relies on DHS agencies for a variety of critical activities. Customs and Border Protection, which oversees agricultural quarantine inspection at the nation's air and seaports and land border crossings, acts as the front line of defense against devastating animal and plant health threats. Similarly, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, which Mr. Mayorkas ran from 2009 until 2013 when he became Deputy Secretary, fulfills a critical function processing the H-2A program visa petitions for agricultural workers needed to fill the roughly 275,000 positions certified by the Department of Labor in FY2020.

We believe that it is in America's compelling interest to have Senate-confirmed leadership in place in this important role on Day 1 of President-elect Biden's administration. Mr. Mayorkas has the requisite background, agency mission and issue knowledge to provide serious and stable leadership at the helm of DHS. We respectfully encourage the Senate to swiftly confirm him.

Sincerely,

**Agriculture Coalition for Immigration Reform**  
**All-America Selections**  
**AmericanHort**  
**American Mushroom Institute**  
**American Sugar Cane League**  
**Certified American Grown**  
**National Association of Landscape Professionals**  
**National Christmas Tree Association**  
**National Council of Agricultural Employers**  
**National Council of Farmer Cooperatives**  
**National Farmers Union**

**National Garden Bureau  
National Milk Producers Federation  
National Potato Council  
New England Apple Council  
Nisei Farmers League  
Northeast Dairy Producers Association  
Northwest Dairy Association  
Northwest Horticultural Council  
United Fresh Produce Association  
US Apple Association  
Western Agricultural Processors Association  
Western Growers  
Western Plant Health Association**

**Alabama Nursery & Landscape Association  
Aurora Organic Dairy  
Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
Arizona Nursery Association  
Yuma Fresh Vegetable Association  
African-American Farmers of California  
California Apple Commission  
California Blueberry Commission  
California Cotton Ginners and Growers Association  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
California Citrus Mutual  
California Fresh Fruit Association  
California Blueberry Association  
Fresno County Farm Bureau  
Grower-Shipper Association of Central California  
Milk Producers Council  
Monterey County Farm Bureau  
Olive Growers Council of California  
Plant California Alliance  
San Diego County Farm Bureau  
Tulare County Farm Bureau  
Ventura County Agricultural Association  
Colorado Nursery & Greenhouse Association  
Florida Citrus Mutual  
Florida Fruit & Vegetable Association**

**Florida Nursery, Growers and Landscape Association**  
**Georgia Green Industry Association**  
**Georgia Urban Ag Council**  
**Idaho Dairymen's Association**  
**Idaho Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Illinois Green Industry Association**  
**Illinois Landscape Contractors Association**  
**Indiana Nursery and Landscape Association**  
**Louisiana Nursery and Landscape Association**  
**Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association, Inc.**  
**MBG Marketing**  
**Michigan Apple Association**  
**Michigan Green Industry Association**  
**Michigan Nursery and Landscape Association**  
**Minnesota Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Missouri Green Industry Association**  
**Nevada Farm Bureau Federation**  
**New Jersey Landscape Contractors Association**  
**New Jersey Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**New Mexico Farm and Livestock Bureau**  
**New York Apple Association**  
**New York State Flower Industries**  
**North Carolina Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Ohio Landscape Association**  
**Ohio Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Oregon Association of Nurseries**  
**Pennsylvania Landscape & Nursery Association**  
**Tennessee Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Utah Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Washington Growers League**  
**Washington State Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Washington State Tree Fruit Association**  
**West Virginia Nursery & Landscape Association**  
**Wisconsin Landscape Contractors Association**

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