

Subject: Immigration Reform Bill Would Help Farmers and Workers

Story Summary: It's not often you see farm labor advocates and agricultural organizations on the same side of migrant worker legislation, but both are supporting the AgJobs bill, which also has bipartisan support in Congress. Both sides say it's a much needed fix for a program that doesn't work.

TRT: 1:50

Suggested Lead: Supporters say new migrant labor legislation would be good news for farmers, migrant workers and homeland security. Johnna Miller reports.

Suggested Supers: Nash County, NC
@ :03

Dale Bone
North Carolina Vegetable Grower
@ :20

Rep. Chris Cannon
Utah – 3rd District
@ :43

Johnna Miller
Reporting
@ 1:41

Suggested Tag: A government study found that the Department of Labor missed deadlines for processing farmers' applications for foreign workers 40 percent of the time.

Immigration Reform Bill Would Help Farmers and Workers
Johnna Miller Reporting
October 30, 2003

<p>Med shot of migrant workers harvesting sweet potatoes</p> <p>Wide shot of lots of workers</p> <p>Close-up of worker grabbing potatoes</p>	<p>VO/ IT'S STRENUOUS, DEMANDING WORK, BUT THOUSANDS OF MIGRANT WORKERS RISK THEIR LIVES AND THE LAW TO CROSS THE BORDER FOR WORK IN U.S. FARM FIELDS.</p>
<p>Grower in field talking to worker</p> <p>Workers in field</p>	<p>VO/ FOR GROWERS LIKE DALE BONE, THESE WORKERS ARE AS VITAL AS SEEDS AND THE SUN.</p>
<p>Dale Bone North Carolina Vegetable Grower</p>	<p>SOT/ WE'D BE OUT OF BUSINESS IF WE DIDN'T HAVE MIGRANT WORKERS. IF WE DIDN'T HAVE THE WORKERS WE'D HAVE NO CROPS. WE COULDN'T HARVEST ANYTHING. THERE'S NO LOCAL WORKERS THAT ARE WILLING TO DO THIS TYPE OF WORK.</p>
<p>Wide of workers in field</p> <p>Hands grabbing sweet potatoes</p> <p>Low angle down harvested row with workers</p> <p>Close-up of digging and dropping potatoes into bucket</p>	<p>VO/ GOVERNMENT AND INDUSTRY ESTIMATES SUGGEST 50 TO 85 PERCENT OF THE FARM WORKFORCE IS HERE ILLEGALLY. SO WHY NOT JUST GET LEGAL FOREIGN WORKERS? BECAUSE MOST AGREE, THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM THAT'S SUPPOSED TO PROVIDE THOSE WORKERS – THE H2A GUESTWORKER PROGRAM – DOESN'T WORK.</p>

<p>Rep. Chris Cannon Utah – 3rd District</p>	<p>SOT/ THE GROWERS THAT ARE USING THE H2A PROGRAM ARE, GENERALLY SPEAKING, HURTING PRETTY BADLY BECAUSE IT'S SO AWKWARD. IT'S SO SLOW. IT COSTS SO MUCH IN OVERHEAD AND TAKES SO LONG TO GET THE WORKERS IN, THAT THEY'RE SUFFERING TERRIBLY. SO IF WE'RE GOING TO HAVE AGRICULTURE IN AMERICA WE NEED TO HAVE A PROGRAM THAT WORKS.</p>
<p>Cannon walking down hallway</p> <p>More workers in field</p> <p>Close-up of worker</p>	<p>VO/ CONGRESSMAN CHRIS CANNON AND A BIPARTISAN GROUP OF LAWMAKERS HAVE INTRODUCED LEGISLATION TO FIX THE PROGRAM. THE AGRICULTURAL JOB OPPORTUNITY, BENEFITS AND SECURITY ACT – AGJOBS FOR SHORT – WOULD GIVE FARMERS A MORE PRACTICAL AND RELIABLE SYSTEM TO PROVIDE LABOR. QUALIFIED ILLEGAL WORKERS WOULD GET A ONE-TIME CHANCE TO BECOME LEGAL.</p>
<p>Worker tossing bucket up to guy in back of truck</p> <p>Emptying baskets of potatoes</p> <p>Wide shot of workers taking baskets to truck</p>	<p>VO/ THE LEGISLATION CALLS FOR WORKERS TO HAVE TAMPER-PROOF IDENTIFICATION. SUPPORTERS SAY THE I.D. SYSTEM WOULD BENEFIT HOMELAND SECURITY BECAUSE LIMITED RESOURCES COULD FOCUS ON REAL SECURITY RISKS INSTEAD OF IMMIGRANTS WHO WANT TO WORK.</p>

<p>Cannon SOT</p> <p>Wide shot of workers in field</p> <p>Close-up of digging</p>	<p>SOT/ YOU KNOW, AMERICA IS THE LAND OF OPPORTUNITY. A LOT OF THE PEOPLE WHO OPPOSE IMMIGRATION SOMEHOW THINK PEOPLE DON'T GET THAT, BUT ACTUALLY PEOPLE REALLY DO GET THAT AND THEY COME TO FOR THE RIGHT PURPOSE TO AMERICA.</p>
<p>Worker tossing bucket of sweet potatoes up into truck and another worker catches it.</p>	<p>VO/ GROWERS AND WORKERS SAY THE AG JOBS LEGISLATION IS TOO IMPORTANT AN OPPORTUNITY TO MISS.</p> <p>IN NASH COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA, I'M JOHNNA MILLER.</p>