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COMMITTEE ON
FINANCIAL SERVICES
FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS
AND CONSUMER CREDIT

DOMESTIC MONETARY POLICY
AND TECHNOLOGY

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Denny Rehberg
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human
Services, Education, and Related Agencies
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and
Human Services, Education, and Related
Agencies
2358B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rehberg and Ranking Member DeLauro:

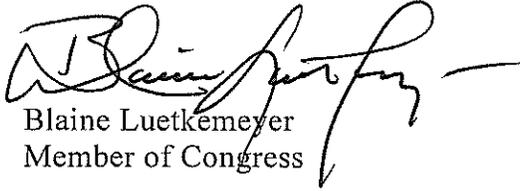
As the Fiscal Year 2013 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies appropriations process moves forward, I would like to request your serious consideration of limiting language to be included in your final proposed text.

As you know, on September 2, 2011, the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on youth employment in agriculture (RIN 1235-AA06). According to DOL, the changes proposed were meant to bring about dramatic change to the ways in which minors, specifically those under the age of 16, can work in agriculture. After hearing significant objections from Members of Congress and agriculture groups nationwide, DOL withdrew part of the rule but has promised to move forward with the majority of the changes despite significant public objection.

Like many of my colleagues, I am incredibly concerned that this rulemaking will hamper young Americans' consideration of agricultural-related careers. I also fear that the DOL proposal will ultimately hinder the success of the American family farm. Despite the inclusion of an exemption for children working on a family-owned or operated farm, this rule will ultimately affect the ability of farmers and ranchers to hire youth to work in agriculture. Simply put, this rule jeopardizes our nation's agricultural heritage and limits the ability of young Americans to gain valuable work experience. As proposed, these regulations are overly-burdensome and would punish an industry that has made significant gains in the safety of young workers over the last several decades. The safety of all workers is of utmost importance, but this proposal is harmful to the way agriculture has been practiced in the United States for generations.

I respectfully request that language is included in the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill that would prohibit funding for the promulgation and implementation of Secretary Solis's proposed rule. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress