Dear Assemblymember/Senator First & Last Name,

As a constituent and business owner in your district, I urge you to address the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement’s (DLSE) mismanagement of the farm labor contractor (FLC) licensing process which is forcing FLCs out of compliance and threatening the livelihoods of farmers, farmworkers, and the pocketbooks of every Californian consumer.

DLSE is mismanaged and ineffective, wasting valuable state resources, taxpayer money, and excessive time and effort from businesses. FLCs are left in limbo when DLSE frequently fails to respond to inquiries or requests. Delays (some over 200 days) are worsened as DLSE often does not adequately review applications, such as requesting previously provided documentation.

When DLSE began utilizing a new vendor this spring to facilitate FLC licensing exams, failure rates reached an unprecedented 70%. After many requests and threat of legal action from some FLCs, the Division found the exam was incorrect and they had mistakenly denied numerous FLCs a license and prohibited them from reapplying until 2023. With exams delayed and backlogged, FLCs continue the onerous process of reapplying every three months for license extensions until they can receive an invitation to take, and pass, the exam.

---Share your personal experience with DLSE mismanagement and the impacts it has had on you, your family, business, workers, clients, etc.---

DLSE is not fulfilling its regulatory obligations as outlined in the California Labor Code to ensure facilities and personnel are maintained for FLC examination and licensing, leading to serious consequences. When licenses are excessively delayed or improperly denied, farm workers are laid off, farmers risk crop damage or loss, and consumers face even higher prices. FLCs whose licenses were wrongly denied cannot recuperate losses and risk client relationships and future business.

Please help the agricultural industry, farmers, FLCs, and farmworkers by contacting the Department of Industrial Relations to:

* Urge an assessment of the procedures to address the deficiencies and waste at DLSE.
* Implement enhanced oversight and accountability of DLSE procedures and management of FLC licensing.
* Supporting increased funding for staffing at DLSE in order to respond appropriately to licensing requirements. Consider fast-tracking the recruiting and hiring process.

If you or your staff would like additional information regarding the issues FLCs are facing and the impacts due to DLSE mismanagement, please contact me directly.

Thank you for your consideration,

Full Name

Business Name

Phone number

Email

Street address, City, CA. zip code