

# United States Senate

October 25, 2011

The Honorable Hilda L. Solis  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis:

We request an extension of the comment period for proposed changes to the Fair Labor Standards Act that would affect the ability of farmers and ranchers to hire youth to work in agriculture. The U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Child Labor Regulations, Orders and Statements of Interpretation; Child Labor Violations—Civil Money Penalties" (76 Fed. Reg. 54836), if allowed to move forward in its current form, would have vast implications for the agriculture industry. The original 60 days allowed for comment are not enough for the affected parties to express their concerns.

It is particularly concerning the DOL would publish a proposed rule in September and set the comment period during the fall harvest season. For agricultural producers across the nation this is the busiest time of year. To allow agriculture producers a reasonable amount of time to consider the proposed regulation and comment, the DOL should allow, at a minimum, an additional 60 days for farmers, ranchers, and others to comment.

Not only would this regulation, as currently drafted, have far reaching effects on youth agricultural education programs, farms, ranches, and other agricultural businesses, it could greatly impact the structure of family farms and rural communities in the states we represent. We strongly urge you to consider extending the comment period an additional 60 days.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

  
U.S. Senator Jerry Moran

  
U.S. Senator Ben Nelson

Pat Roberts

Debbie Stabenow

Mike Johanns

Max Baucus

Ray Blunt

Kent Conrad

Johnny Isakson

Caine McCalister

Mike Crapo

Ron Wyden

Liz Cheney

Amy Klobuchar

John Barrasso

Jan Tuttle

Jim Risch

Chuck Grassley

Mike Enji

John Boozman

Richard A. Sugar

John A. Hum

Robin L. Hatch

Herb Kohl

Sayby Claubkin

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Jim DeMint

Ken Corts

John Hovorn

James Mc. Clarke

Tom Cohen

Tommy Kyr

Tom Udare

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