

Press Advisory
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A Season Without Mexicans: Labor Shortages and Rotting Crops

California's economy needs immigrant labor and comprehensive immigration reform.

SAN DIEGO – Leaders from a wide range of California business organizations who rely on immigrant labor and academic experts will gather Monday, August 14 to discuss some of the devastating economic costs of Congress' failure to pass fair and practical comprehensive immigration reform. The businesspeople will hold a news conference in advance of the U.S. House Government Reform Committee's immigration hearing scheduled Monday in San Diego.

As House members hold immigration hearings across the nation this summer, fruits and vegetables are rotting in fields all throughout California. While farmers deal with labor shortages and worry about who's going to harvest the crops that feed America, Congress has failed to pass much-needed comprehensive immigration reform.

Monday's hearing will discuss the costs of a bipartisan comprehensive immigration reform proposal that originated in the Senate. These business leaders want to make sure the climbing costs of their inaction to California's businesses and local governments are not ignored in the debate.

Speakers at the conference will include:

- ◆ Dick Castner, regional director, U.S. Chamber of Commerce
- ◆ Luawanna Hallstrom, board member, Western Growers Association and California Farm Bureau
- ◆ Professor Dan Siciliano, executive director, Program in Law, Economics, and Business at Stanford Law School
- ◆ Dr. Ruth Covell, associate dean, professor of family and preventive medicine, UCSD School of Medicine.
- ◆ Melissa Daar, California policy and field director, People For the American Way

What: Business and Immigration Press Conference

When: 9:30 a.m. Monday, August 14, 2006

Where: Grand Central Café, 500 W Broadway, San Diego

Available parking: metered spaces on the street and parking garage behind the café. Enter on India or Columbia off Broadway.

Bagels, juice and coffee will be served.