



OFFICE OF THE LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

Vermont State House
115 State Street
Montpelier, VT 05602

June 20, 2022

Office of the Principal Legal Advisor
JFK Federal Building
15 New Sudbury Street, Room 425
Boston, MA 02203

Re: Support for Prosecutorial Discretion request for members of Migrant Justice

Dear Madam:

I am writing in support of a request for the exercise of prosecutorial discretion for Vermont agricultural workers. Based on the DHS memorandum issued by Secretary Mayorkas on September 30th, 2021, entitled "Guidelines for the Enforcement of Civil Immigration Law," Vermont residents who are candidates for the favorable exercise of prosecutorial discretion should not be removed from the United States.

Agricultural workers are valued community members in Vermont. Their work helps sustain the farms that are central to our state's economy and rural character. During the pandemic, they served as essential workers who kept our grocery stores stocked and our families fed. Vermont is experiencing significant labor shortages in this sector and these individuals are integral to our local food system.

Section IV of the DHS enforcement memo, includes the provision: "*A noncitizen's exercise of work place or tenant rights, or service as a witness in a labor or housing dispute, should be considered a mitigating factor in the exercise of prosecutorial discretion.*" In this instance, agricultural workers, who are members of the Vermont-based community organization Migrant Justice, have strong and well-documented histories exercising their workplace and tenant rights.

As Vermont's 82nd Lieutenant Governor, I join with our Vermont Congressional delegation in respectfully requesting your consideration of a favorable exercise of prosecutorial discretion for eligible Vermont residents. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact my Chief of Staff Andrew Gillespie at: Andrew.gillespie@vermont.gov.

Sincerely,

Molly Gray

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Molly R. Gray".

Vermont Lieutenant Governor