For Immediate Release:

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COMMISSIONER STAPLES DELIVERS PRESENTATION IN WASHINGTON TO SECURE BORDER, SAVE AMERICAN JOBS, REDUCE ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION BY STREAMLINING FAILED VISA PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, D.C. — Agriculture Commissioner Todd Staples today spoke to U.S. House members and their staffs during a briefing on the H-2B labor program. Designed to allow businesses to fill labor shortages, the federal program is currently plagued with bureaucratic red tape and antiquated quotas, and helps create an insecure border.

Commissioner Staples believes the program must be reformed and streamlined to save American jobs, reduce illegal immigration and secure our southern border.

Following are excerpts from Commissioner Staples' remarks:

"Our failed guest worker process is to be blamed for the deaths of 591 individuals, from 2006 to 2011, in Texas counties along the border region. These individuals had a desire to better themselves, and in response to an under-populated U.S. labor market, literally risked life and limb to enter the United States. Nearly 600 died on their journey to what they hoped would be a better life.

"The current H-2B and other work-visa programs are so bad, so riddled, so antiquated, we need to not be implementing new rules and regulations to make it harder; we need to reform and streamline to make it better.

"Let's be clear: Any American who wants a job should be first in line to receive that job, but the lines are not forming.

"If you want to save the American jobs we have, and expand them, I suggest you not burden the existing and capped H-2B program with more regulation and restriction; uncap it and streamline it. Send the message to job creators worldwide that America is open for business."

To read Commissioner Staples' entire remarks, click here.

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