

## Levesque, Jennifer

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**From:** Cheryl Lehn <clehn@niseifarmersleague.com>  
**Sent:** Tuesday, August 10, 2021 4:18 PM  
**To:** Dietz, Stephanie; Lee, Nancy; cityclerk  
**Subject:** Request to Appear at City Council Meeting  
**Attachments:** Sample letter for Cities re Immigration Reform - Sen. Feinstein.docx; contacts for letters to U S Senators.docx; Sample letter for cities re Immigration Reform - Sen. Padilla.docx

**Importance:** High

### *City Manager Dietz, Assistant City Manager Lee and City Clerk,*

Manuel Cunha, Jr., President of the Nisei Farmers League would like to appear before the Merced City Council on August 16, 2021 to present the attached sample letters addressed to our U.S. Senators and seek support.

We found in the House of Representatives version of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 (Immigration Reform Bill), they did not include Packing Houses nor Processing facilities. This would really hurt our agricultural industry as well as cities. That is why this is so important.

Mr. Cunha can bring 8 copies of the 2 sample letters addressed to our U.S. Senators to your meeting for the Council, the City Manager, the City Attorney and the City Clerk.

I have also attached a contact list where you would send the letters (if they are approved) to each U.S. Senator's office. The Immigration representative and the local district representative. We ask that you copy us too! Sending them by U.S. Mail takes about 3 weeks. Each letter received in Washington D.C. has to go through Security and can take weeks! So we email our letters to the staff representatives.

Thank you very much for your help.

Cheryl for Manuel Cunha, Jr.  
Please call me if you have questions. 559-251-8468

*Nisei Farmers League*  
*Celebrating 50 years*  
*1971 to 2021*



**Growers Looking Out For Growers  
and Farm Workers**

Cheryl Lehn  
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Nisei Farmers League  
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**[NOTICE: This message originated outside of City of Merced -- DO NOT CLICK on links or open attachments unless you are sure the content is safe.]**

Please E-mail your letter supporting Immigration Reform to the following staff:

**U.S. Senator Dianne Feinstein**

Andrew D. Fausett  
Senior Counsel  
U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
[Andrew\\_Fausett@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Andrew_Fausett@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Send a copy to  
Shelly Abajian  
District Director  
U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
[Shelly\\_Abajian@feinstein.senate.gov](mailto:Shelly_Abajian@feinstein.senate.gov)

**U.S. Senator Alex Padilla**

R Richa DeCant  
U. S. Senator Alex Padilla  
U. S. Senate Committee on the Judiciary  
[Richa\\_deCant@judiciary-dem.senate.gov](mailto:Richa_deCant@judiciary-dem.senate.gov)

Send a Copy to  
Margaret Arechiga  
Fresno District Director  
U S Senator Alex Padilla  
[Margaret\\_Arechiga@padilla.senate.gov](mailto:Margaret_Arechiga@padilla.senate.gov)

**Please send a copy of your letters and email to:**

Manuel Cunha, Jr., President  
Nisei Farmers League  
[CLEHN@niseifarmersleague.com](mailto:CLEHN@niseifarmersleague.com)

This is a sample letter that can be used to send to U.S. Senator Feinstein

Use City Letterhead

Date:

The Honorable U. S. Senator Dianne Feinstein  
331 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Feinstein,

The City of \_\_\_\_\_ greatly appreciates the United States House of Representatives passage of the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021. We have hope that it will pass the Senate, especially since undocumented farmworkers and other agricultural employees have shown how important they are during the COVID-19 pandemic. However, the legislation in its current form leaves out a large segment of our undocumented agricultural workforce, people that work in packing houses and processing plants.

Packing houses and processing plants are a vital economic sector in our community. They provide our residents with good paying jobs. It would be unfair for these workers who are sorting, packing, or processing agriculture commodities to have to resign from these agricultural jobs to seek another that meets the legislation's current definition of *agricultural labor or services*. They too are working long and hours, especially during peak season. Work done whether in the field or in packing houses or processing plants is important to the agricultural industry.

Dreamers must not be forgotten in this push to legalize the agricultural workforce. In our community, many Dreamers have parents who work in agriculture. To not move forward without legislation for Dreamers leaves their future uncertain. A federal district court order enjoined the granting of the initial DACA request. Further court rulings could terminate DACA for those already granted. We will lose teachers, doctors, lawyers, and workers in almost all occupations.

The City of \_\_\_\_\_ respectfully request that the definition of *agricultural labor or services* in the Farm Workforce Modernization Act of 2021 be modified to include employees who work in packing houses and processing plants and that legislation for Dreamers be passed concurrently.

Sincerely,

This is a sample letter that can be used to send to U.S. Senator Padilla

Use City Letterhead

Date:

The Honorable U. S. Senator Alex Padilla  
B03 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Senator Padilla,

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