

## Recommendation from Public Policy Committee to Board of Directors

The Public Policy Committee is recommending that the Board draft a letter to national representatives on the issue of immigration reform. Due to a significant sector of the Livingston County economy dependent upon agriculture, especially dairy farms that rely heavily on immigrant labor to care for livestock and the production of feed.

Livingston County farmers and their employees return money to the local economy through the purchase of goods and services from local retail outlets. The loss to the Livingston County economy will be substantial should immigration reform not be swiftly enacted in Congress to correct the dislocations now occurring in the agricultural community resulting from the current state of US immigration law;

The Public Policy Committee and Executive Committee make a recommendation that the Chairman of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce execute a letter, on behalf of the Livingston County Chamber of Commerce, to Senator Charles Schumer, Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, Congressman Tom Reynolds, House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and Cc. to state representatives requesting continued support for an immigration reform bill that includes provisions addressing the following:

- The recognition that the ability of a country to feed its people is a key element of its national security.
- The creation of a temporary guest worker program appropriate for the needs of dairy and other farmers that allows for a legal and efficient means of employing seasonal and year round labor.
- The reform of the current H2A program to allow H2A visa holders to apply for permanent resident status on a basis other than Family Based Immigration.
- To increase the number of allowed Extensions of Stay from two to a more reasonable number, having in mind the need of farmers for stable workforces.
- A legitimate and fair opportunity for agricultural workers already working in this country to apply for permanent resident status or citizenship.
- The fair and consistent application of border security measures and enforcement of immigration and nationality laws in a manner that does not adversely affect the interests of farmers.