Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Hilda Solis
U.S. Department of Labor
Frances Perkins Building
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20210

Dear Secretary Solis,

The Department of Labor's (DOL) proposed rulemaking, originally published in the Federal Register on September 2, 2011, regarding youth labor policies in agriculture would have significant negative effects on rural communities in Ohio and the United States if made final. As written, the most concerning portions of the rule would prevent most young men and women from working on family farms and deny children opportunities to learn the practical skills offered through 4-H, FFA and Supervised Agricultural Experience programs.

We commend your decision to re-propose the "parental exemption" portion of the rule and your recognition of "the unique attributes of farm families and rural communities." During the original comment period you received a number of comments from Members of Congress, lobbying organizations, trade associations, and etc. We believe that hearing directly from the families affected by the rulemaking will provide you the best possible understanding of the attributes and values of farmers and rural communities. As such, we have enclosed a pamphlet, which contains comments directly from our constituents expressing how the changes in the proposed rulemaking would negatively affect their farms, families and communities.

We respectfully request that you review and consider the enclosed comments prior to re-proposing the modified rulemaking this summer.

Sincerely,

Rob Portman
United States Senator

Robert E. Latta
Member of Congress

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Jim Jordan
Member of Congress

Bob Gibbs
Member of Congress

Jim Renacci
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Pat Tiberi
Member of Congress

Steve Austria
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress

Bill Johnson
Member of Congress

Michael R. Turner
Member of Congress

Enclosure (1)