

Support Common Sense Gun Safety Laws

1 **WHEREAS** Washington State agricultural commodity values in 2011, the last year for which
2 figures were available, topped \$9 billion, and the combined value of food and agriculture
3 industry, which employs approximately 160,000 people in Washington, is \$46 billion; and
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5 **WHEREAS** many of the commodities require substantial human labor to produce, including, for
6 example, Washington's number one crop, apples; and
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8 **WHEREAS** those crops that are most labor intensive often require farm workers with special
9 knowledge and skills gained over years of such labor; and
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11 **WHEREAS** immigration enforcement raids on migrant labor have reduced the population of
12 such skilled laborers and threatened the on-going productivity of some farms; and
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14 **WHEREAS** the number of skilled and willing workers who are United States (US) citizens, or,
15 non-citizens in full compliance with immigration laws, is insufficient to meet the needs of
16 agriculture and related industries; and
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18 **WHEREAS** Washington State Democratic Party has already voiced its opposition to raids on
19 undocumented immigrants contained in "Secure Communities" (WSDCCRES - 589 -130202 -
20 PASS - IMM); and
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22 **WHEREAS** the "E-Verify" program similarly constrains the ability of undocumented farm
23 workers to support themselves and their families; and
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25 **WHEREAS** the treatment of farm workers in the current immigration reform talks is a central
26 topic of controversy; and
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28 **WHEREAS** there appears to be movement on a compromise that would allow up to 336,000
29 non-citizen farm workers to receive "blue cards" to work legally in the US, including provisions
30 on farm worker wage levels, caps on agricultural guest worker visas and protections for [US](#)
31 workers; and
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33 **WHEREAS** this issue needs to be dealt with comprehensively in the immigration reform
34 discussions; now
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36 **THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED** the Washington State Democrats email our congressional
37 delegation and urge them to work for and support inclusion of strong language to ensure that
38 farmers have access to a skilled work force and to protect farm worker rights in the immigration
39 reform laws currently being drafted.
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41 Submitted by the Agriculture and Rural Caucus to the Washington State Democratic Central Committee
42 for consideration at the WSDCC April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan. (Submitted 4/19/13)
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44 The WSDCC Resolutions Committee "AMENDED THIS RESOLUTION AND RECOMMENDED A
45 PASS" at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan.
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47 The WSDCC "PASSED" this resolution at its April 27, 2013 meeting in Chelan.