



The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

February 17, 2026

Dear President Trump:

On behalf of AmericanHort, the national trade association representing the U.S. horticulture industry, we want to express our sincere appreciation for the work your Administration has done to address agricultural labor and workforce challenges – the most pressing issue facing horticulture growers today. The new wage rule and improvements to the H-2A program are commendable. Predictable and affordable access to legal seasonal labor is essential to the survival of horticulture businesses, and your leadership has helped elevate these issues at the national level.

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We also know House Agriculture Committee Chairman GT Thompson is working on a bill to codify and make permanent your Administration's changes to this vital program. We would respectfully request your support of this legislation to ensure long-term workforce stability for American agriculture. We look forward to continuing to work with the White House and your agencies to develop long-term solutions that support both growers and American workers.

However, we are concerned with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's decision to exclude ornamental horticulture growers from eligibility under the \$1 billion Farmer Bridge Payment Program for non-Title I producers. While we understand the complexity of designing emergency support programs, ornamental growers face the same rising labor costs, input pressures, and market disruptions as other agricultural sectors. Many of these businesses operate on thin margins and are still recovering from years of compounded economic strain. Excluding ornamental horticulture leaves a significant segment of American agriculture – one that is labor-intensive and workforce-dependent – without access to relief intended to stabilize the broader farm economy.

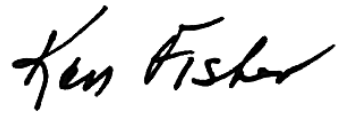
We respectfully request that the Administration reconsider the structure of the Farmer Bridge Payment Program and ensure that ornamental horticulture is fully recognized as part of U.S. agriculture in current and future relief efforts. At the same time, we urge continued prioritization of agricultural labor reform, as workforce availability remains the defining challenge for our industry. AmericanHort stands ready to serve as a resource and partner as you continue strengthening the American farm economy.

AmericanHort represents greenhouse growers, nurseries, landscape firms, retailers, breeders, distributors, and allied suppliers in all 50 states. Our industry is a cornerstone of American agriculture and local economies, generating more than

\$520 billion in total economic output and supporting nearly 3 million American jobs. Ornamental horticulture businesses are multi-generational, family-owned, and rooted in their communities, contributing to domestic production, environmental stewardship, and the quality of life in cities and towns nationwide.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your ongoing commitment to American agriculture.

Sincerely,



Ken Fisher
AmericanHort
President & CEO



Matt Mika
AmericanHort
VP, Advocacy and Government Affairs

CC:
The Honorable Brooke Rollins
The Secretary of Agriculture
U.S. Department of Agriculture