



Farmworker Albany Day 2017

Press Packet

PRESS ADVISORY

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Albany, NY - On May 23, 2017, farmworkers, activists, and allies will travel to Albany to advocate for the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act (S.2721/A.4189). We will march onto the Capitol for a rally and then conduct legislative visits with members of the New York State Legislature.

Rally

Date/Time: May 23, 2016 / 12:15 PM

Location: West Capitol Park

Scheduled to Speak:

Ruth Reichl, American Chef, Food Writer and Television Producer and Host

Senate Minority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins

Senator Marisol Alcantara

Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan

Mario Cilento, President, NY AFL-CIO

Bishop Scharfenberger, Roman Catholic Diocese of Albany

Librada Paz, RFK Human Rights Laureate

Elena Lopez, Farmworker from Western New York

Dolores Bustamante, Farmworker from Western New York

Press Release

Farmworker Albany Day: Farmworkers Need Equal Protections Now

[Albany, NY]- Farmworkers, activists and allies from across the state will descend onto Albany on May 23, 2017 in order to demand justice for NYS farmworkers who are excluded from basic workplace protections. They will meet at Westminster Presbyterian Church (262 State Street in Albany) at 10am on May 23 and then march towards West Capitol Park in order to hold a rally. The rally is set to begin at 12:15 in the afternoon. As a bastion of progressive legislation, it is time for New York to dignify farmworkers with equality in the workplace.

Farmworkers from across the state have endured long hours of hard physical labor and are exposed to dangerous conditions every day, yet they continue to be excluded from basic workplace rights and protections afforded by the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 and the National Labor Relations Act of 1935. Their work is crucial to food production and it is the foundation of the state's multi-billion dollar agricultural industry.

We hope Farmworker Albany Day will achieve the following:

- Spread awareness to legislators, grassroots organizations and ordinary citizens,
- Encourage Senators and members of the Assembly to enact the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act (S2721/A4189), and Governor Cuomo to use his influence to bring the bill to the floor for a vote
- Empower farmworkers throughout the state and raise awareness of their rights

Rural & Migrant Ministry, Inc. (RMM) was founded in 1981. We are a non-profit organization formed to develop just, rural migrant communities throughout New York State. RMM is the official arm of the following religious bodies, representing over one million members: Capital Area & Mid-Hudson Baptist Associations; The Presbyteries of Albany, Hudson River and Long Island; New York Annual Conference of the United Methodist Church; The Regional Synod of New York, Reformed Church in America; The Episcopal Diocese of New York; The Roman Catholic Dioceses of Albany and Rochester; New York Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends (Quakers); and New York Conference of the United Church of Christ.

Quotes from the legislators sponsoring the legislation

"As an immigrant and a former labor organizer, I am proud to stand up in support of my Bill, the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act. By extending commonsense labor protections to the farmworkers who produce our food, New York State can show that it values the work of all workers and rectify an injustice that has persisted since the 1930s. Every worker should be treated with the respect they deserve, and it is important that under this anti-worker and anti-immigrant administration, New York State sends a clear message that everyone is equal under the law."

-Senator Marisol Alcantara, Sponsor of Senate Bill 2721

"Farmworkers deserve labor protections," said Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan. "My Bill simply supports basic rights for these workers. I would urge my colleagues in the Senate Majority to support this legislation. My thanks to Rev. Richard Witt, Richard Winston and the AFL-CIO for their leadership on this issue".

-Assemblywoman Catherine Nolan, Sponsor of Assembly Bill 4189