



FLORIDA CITRUS MUTUAL



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October 20, 2025

The Honorable Russell Vought
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Executive Office of the President
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Vought:

I write to you today on behalf of Florida Citrus Mutual and its 1,500 grower members, to express a critical concern regarding the U.S. Department of Labor's (USDOL) suspension of H-2A labor certification due to the ongoing government shutdown and to request H-2A processing resume as quickly as possible to mitigate the risk for significant loss to property.

In recent years the Florida citrus industry has faced devastating challenges, including hurricanes and disease, that have affected our crop. After fighting back from those challenges our growers are beginning to see real progress, but without a reliable workforce to bring these fruits to harvest that work and investment will be for naught. Citrus production is labor intensive and requires harvesting by hand due to the perishable nature of our crop. The majority of Florida citrus growers utilize the H-2A program to provide a stable and legal seasonal workforce.

If the USDOL does not quickly resume certifying H-2A labor certification applications, our workforce may not arrive in time for harvest. If the shutdown lasts through November, it may be February before workers arrive and for many of our growers that's simply too late.

We respectfully request that the USDOL's processing of H-2A labor certification applications be considered an activity essential to protect property pursuant to 31 U.S.C. § 1342. The potential loss of perishable crops that could result from delayed processing meets the threshold for emergency action. Recognizing the essential nature of these applications is vital to protecting Florida citrus and other agricultural production from potential crop loss and the ensuing financial harm to producers.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Regards,

G. Mathew Joyner
Executive Vice President/CEO
Florida Citrus Mutual

cc The Honorable Lori Chavez DeRemer, Secretary, U.S. Department of Labor
The Honorable Kristi Noem, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Brooke Rollins, Secretary, U.S. Department of Agriculture