

Theresa Utton-Jerman

Subject: Governor budget committee members

hello,

All Vermont farm workers

Are generally excluded from some of the same protections as other workers for example manufacturing.

No unemployment benefits for most all farm workers ,citizens or not..

Loss of farmers out of business or loss of hours put many people with no income or lower income .. farmworkers are exempt from unemployment insurance Farm housing law..If living in farmer owned housing without any contract , loss of employment results in loss of housing..

People have become homeless

Lack of fair wages paid different than manufacturing no overtime pay and at times poor working conditions and living conditions lack of oversight Most farms offer no kind of benefits like health insurance, retirement,Paid vacation ect..

Very dangerous work conditions.safety very important.

Affordable housing difficult and unreachable.

Addressing Farm housing is very important several other states have made great improvements in farm worker homes especially the building of homes off the farms and use all the available resources specific to Farm housing grants and loans from the Usda and department of labor grants Using technical support like Pathstone corporation theyusing technical support like Pathstone corporation they are one of the countries leading experts in farm housing and HUD resources at states level have utilized to make these improvements Vermont should to as it has never addressed farm housing before Low wages make affordable homes hard to find as well as many other factors Make it difficult to want to work as an agricultural farm worker working in agriculture.

Ernest Caswell (Buster)