

Hi my name is Gamaliel, am a dairy farmworker in the town of newport

It's crucial for you all to understand the role that migrant workers play in the dairy industry in Vermont, an industry that's essential to the state of vermont.

We perform some of the hardest jobs, some of the most difficult jobs and some of the most difficult jobs. It's unfortunate that some workers are working 12+ hrs, that's not because we choose to but because cows don't milk themselves

Many workers that are part of the migrant community, earn below the states minimum wage which this year is 13.67

I am part of this group of workers earning below the state minimum wage, for me and my family it will be very helpful to receive a fair and dignified wage.

To give you all and idea of the conditions I face, i am currently working 12 hrs and earning 10.26 an hrs

I want you all to have an idea of my day to day. I start work at 3:00 am, I have to make my way to work, to start making the cows beds, start milking, with 1 more person, we have to milk over 500 cows. We have to separate the dry cows and the other groups. We are always working with heavy animals and putting ourselves at risk. We have to give the cows medicine, we have to push cow manure, clean all the milking machinery and equipment, it's a lot of work. We have to do this for 12 hrs straight and only for 10.26 an hr, so i ask you all sitting here today, would you do all this hard and dangerous work for such a low wage? Would you do it and make ends meet to support your family? Think about it for a second and put yourselves in my shoes

Having the minimum wage, would make me really happy, I would very so much happier waking up so early and heading to work, I would feel recognized by such an important industry that's part of vermont,

We are demanded to perform well at work, to do a lot, then migrant dairy farmworkers should be recognized and our rights should be upheld, for all that we do to maintain and sustain the dairy farms in our state of Vermont.

Earning the state's minimum wage would send a clear signal that Vermont isn't just using us for labor, but it will be a sign that you recognize the humanity in us as well.

Having a better wage will bring stability to my family, to me and it will clearly impact our lives. All dairy farmworkers will be happier. Let's end the abuse, you have an opportunity to put an end to horrible human right exclusion that have persisted for decades, so we hope that you can stand on the right side of history and make the right recommendations to our legislature.