

April 17, 2024

Rural Vermont Supports Passage of the Vermont Pro Act (S. 102) and the Right to Unionize for (Farm-)workers (Proposal 3)

Dear House Committee on General and Housing,

The Right to Unionize is foundational for the ability of historically marginalized farmworkers to organize in unions that improve the protection of the rights of workers in Vermont. S.102 would bring important checks and balances to workplace environments across Vermont.

Rural Vermont envisions a just and equitable world rooted in reverence for the earth and dignity for all. This abundant and generous way of life celebrates our diversity and interdependence, in which communities of microorganisms, animals, plants, and humans tend to one another and nurture generations to come.

Please support the passage of S.102 as it includes important protections for farmworkers and domestic workers' right to unionize by holding employers of farm workers accountable if they prevent farmworkers from organizing or discriminate against workers who organize. With S.102, Vermont would side with CT, ME, MN, NJ, NY and OR and fix in State law the continued exclusion of farmworkers from the protections of the National Labor Relations Act (NLRA) of 1935 which forbids employers from firing workers for joining, organizing or supporting a union.

S.102 also sets important boundaries for employers that would protect workers against misinformation, especially in regards to their rights. Please endorse S.102 and Proposal 3, that would enshrine the right of Vermont workers to organize and collectively bargain in the Vermont Constitution, with your vote.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Rural Vermont staff and board,

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