



CONTACT GOVERNOR INSLEE & STATE LEGISLATORS

The COVID-19 pandemic is spreading fast in the Agriculture industry with workers becoming sick or dying. In Washington State the estimate is 90% of the Ag Workforce is Latino. We know COVID-19 is spreading at an alarming rate through fruit packing warehouses, meat processing plants and fields. The food industry has a responsibility to produce safe food in a safe workplace, and Government is responsible for setting safety standards, conducting inspections, and ensuring that standards are met. The State must have a strong enforcement program to deal with those who do not comply with standards. We ask Governor Inslee and the Legislature to adopt stronger and permanent enforceable standards now to protect Ag workers and the food supply. Food and Ag workers have been deemed essential workers, critical to the USA infrastructure, but systematically they have been excluded from any type of benefits. They are “first responders” because they are risking their lives on the front lines of the COVID-19 battle. We are asking Washingtonians to join us to advocate for Agricultural workers. Washington State has one of the largest agriculture economies in the United States and Ag workers contribute to the local economy's success, yet they live below poverty levels, lack health care benefits, sick leave, and decent wages. In fact, Ag Workers have an average life expectancy of 49 years due to the harsh working conditions. These are diverse jobs, in the field, warehouses, working in Seafood, Dairy, Poultry, Tree & Fruit, and Meat Processing, and the risk is to the whole food supply. Let's stand together to ensure our agriculture workforce is protected.

Farmworkers make the difference:

Call to action! A) Call the Governor at 360.902.4111 and ask to leave a message:(B) Call the legislative hot line at 1-800-562-6000. They will ask you where you live and get the message to your legislators:“My name is _____ and I live in _____.”
I am calling to ask that the Governor and Legislature make the health and safety of farm workers a state-wide priority during this COVID-19 Pandemic. I am worried about the food supply and the growing numbers of farm workers becoming sick or dying. Agricultural employers must provide a safe workplace. Farm workers need safe housing, access to health care, sick leave, and they need livable wages. State Agencies are responsible to hold employers accountable. I JOIN others in asking for permanent protections that FARMWORKERS MATTER, and that requires employers to protect the work force and our food supply. Taking care of Ag Workers is a key part of food security. Thank you.”

ORGANIZATIONAL ENDORSEMENTS

- Latino Civic Alliance (LCA)
- Puyallup Tribe of Indians
- The Jewish Federation of Greater Seattle
- Catholic Community Services Western WA
- Asian Pacific Islander Coalition (APIC) of WA
- Faith Action Network WA
- ACRS, Equal Rights of Washington
- Pacific NW United Church of Christ
- JUJustice Washington, Centro Latino
- Moms Rising, Washington State Labor Council
- YWCA Olympia
- Washington State Catholic Conference
- Washington Community Action Network,
- WA LULAC, Building Changes,
- Washington Low Income Housing Alliance and more.

