

DRAFT

August ---, 2017

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

On July 21st, 2017, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson and 19 other attorneys general from across the United States addressed a letter to you urging that you maintain and defend the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals ("DACA") program that has served more than 750,000 young immigrants so well since it was established in 2012.

We, the City Council of the City of Yakima, Washington, wholeheartedly join with Attorney General Ferguson and his fellow attorneys general who added their signatures to the July 21st letter in strongly advocating for your support of DACA.

The fertile Yakima Valley has long been recognized as a leading agricultural region not only in the U.S., but around the world. Our valley produces more apples, hops, and mint than anywhere else in the country. Other tree fruits like cherries, pears, and peaches, as well as wine grapes, a wide variety of vegetables, and multiple other crops thrive here because of the Yakima Valley's unique soil conditions and climate, sophisticated irrigation networks, leadership in technological advances in agriculture, and unwavering commitment of generations of farming families.

The Yakima Valley's agriculture-centric economy, though, would not and could not be as successful as it has been were it not for the qualified and skilled labor force – a labor force largely consisting of immigrants - that harvests, packs, and ships the multitude of crops grown here to markets around the globe. Quite literally, the backbone of our region's internationally-renowned agricultural economy is that immigrant-based labor force.

For many of the children of our area's immigrant agricultural workers, the Yakima Valley is the only home they have ever known. This is where they grew up. This is where their families, friends, jobs and lives are. This is their community.

DACA offers those daughters and sons of Yakima Valley immigrants a tangible and realistic opportunity to live out the American dream. DACA provides the descendants of the very people who have contributed so enormously to establishing the Yakima Valley as a global agricultural force a legitimate and genuine chance to continue their education, to continue to work and to contribute to our economy, and to continue to realize their American dreams.

Supporting comprehensive immigration reform is among the Yakima City Council's highest federal legislative priorities. As the elected policy-making body for the largest city in the Central Washington region and the county-seat of Yakima County, we fundamentally recognize the invaluable impact immigrants have had and will continue to have on our community.

Immigrants and their children are intricately woven into the fabric of the Yakima Valley and its economy. Immigrants and their children are inexorably ingrained in our region's past, present, and future.

As was noted in the July 21st letter to you from Attorney General Ferguson and 19 of his colleagues, you have repeatedly expressed your support of Dreamers. Those "incredible kids", as you have described them, are relying on the promise you made to handle this issue "with heart."

The nearly 800,000 Dreamers who were brought to this country by their parents and have since been granted DACA after completing applications, submitting to and passing background checks, and applying for a work permit believed you when you said they should "rest easy."

It is on their behalf, and that of the entire Yakima community, that we, the Yakima City Council, implore you to keep their dreams alive by rejecting any attempt to rescind or weaken DACA and, instead, staunchly and adamantly champion its continuation now and for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Mayor Kathy Coffey

Assistant Mayor Carmen Méndez

Councilmember Dulce Gutiérrez

Councilmember Avina Gutiérrez

Councilmember Bill Lover

Councilmember Maureen Adkison

Councilmember Holly Cousens