Dear Farmer:

**We invite you to join the Coalition for Safe Roads to restore access to driver licenses for all in Wisconsin that makes our roads safer by ensuring that all drivers have been tested, know the rules of the road and have access to good auto insurance.**

We are building bipartisan support from all sectors — urban and rural business leaders, law enforcement, faith communities, grassroots organizations, and local elected officials — to support a provision in the state budget that would remove barriers to driver’s licenses for immigrants in Wisconsin.

Currently, tens of thousands of Wisconsin drivers are unable to receive a driver’s license because they are immigrants who lack a social security number.  Without a license, it is harder to attend places of worship, participate in children’s schooling, and engage in many activities basic to a free society.

Analysts estimate that Wisconsin will face a shortage of 45,000 workers by the year 2024 with farms closing on a daily basis. According to the state policy organization, Kids Forward, there are 67,000 undocumented immigrants 16 years and older who would be eligible for a driver’s license if access was granted. There are an estimated 32,000 Wisconsinites who are undocumented that have children. Driver licenses mean they could pick up their children from school, go to doctor’s appointments, and buy groceries without fear. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) has targeted people stopped for driving without a license for detention and deportation, separating hundreds of Wisconsin immigrant families. Restoring access to driver licenses will improve the economy, lessen discrimination, and keep families together.

**Your voice can help make a difference. We’re asking you to use the attached letter as a template, which can be printed on your own letterhead to send to Governor Elect Evers, your state Assembly Representative and Senator.**

Please also send a copy of your letter to Primitivo Torres at [primitivo@vdlf.org](mailto:primitivo@vdlf.org), coalition organizer, as we are collecting all letters to demonstrate the breadth of support. Being a welcoming state and restoring access to driver’s licenses is essential to addressing the state’s labor shortage and making Wisconsin’s economy thrive.  Since we all share Wisconsin’s roads, we are all safer when everyone on the road is licensed and insured.

Sincerely,

Coalition for Safe Roads

Dear Governor-elect Evers and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_:

**I am writing to you as a farmer to express my support for a provision in the state budget restoring access to driver’s licenses for immigrants and low-income people in Wisconsin.**

As a farmer, I recognize the contributions that immigrants make to Wisconsin. Immigrants in Wisconsin are taxpayers, employers, consumers, and workers in all industries. Wisconsin’s agricultural industry depends on immigrant workers.

Ensuring all Wisconsin residents have access to driver’s licenses is sound economic policy that helps build stronger communities. Wisconsin has lost immigrant workers because, amid the ongoing increase in deportations, immigrant drivers have been stopped for driving without a license, separated from their families, and deported. Restoring access to driver’s licenses to immigrants in Wisconsin would keep families together, but it would also help stabilize Wisconsin’s agricultural and dairy industries.

Analysts estimate that Wisconsin will face a shortage of 45,000 workers by 2024. Many industries are already facing a shortage of workers. Being a welcoming, pro-immigrant state and restoring access to driver licenses is essential to addressing the state’s labor shortage and making Wisconsin’s economy thrive.

Restoring access to driver licenses for all in Wisconsin will improve Wisconsin’s economy and keep families together. As a farmer and as your constituent, I ask that you support including the driver license provision in the Wisconsin state budget.

Sincerely,

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| First Name |  | Last Name |
| Title |  | Organization/Business |
| Address |  | City |
| State |  | ZIP Code |