



MAKE EVERY HOUR COUNT

FARMWORKER WAGE THEFT AND SOLUTIONS

"I ask for your support for Bill 2227 so that we have a guarantee fund. If a contractor steals our salary, we have a way to recover what he steals from us. Thank you."

(Farmworker from Santa Barbara County)

CALIFORNIA AG | OUR WORK HAS VALUE

\$61.2
BILLION

CA AG INDUSTRY

CA is the world's 4th largest economy, driven by agriculture.

CDEA | CA.GOV

885,500

CA FARMWORKERS

Farmworkers in California (averaged over 2018-2021)

Hooker

\$15,000

CA FARMWORKER ANNUAL MEDIAN INCOME

Over the past 20 years, farmworker income has shown little increase.

UCM.CLC

THE PROBLEM: CURRENT BOND SYSTEM

Farmworkers report high levels of abuse and labor violations, especially wage theft, from Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs)

- CA requires contractors to carry a bond to be licensed by the Labor Commissioner, which acts like insurance to cover unpaid wages or penalties.
- Despite this safeguard, many workers are unable to recover stolen wages due to limited access to information, barriers in proving claims, company bankruptcy, and insufficient funds when multiple workers are affected.
- Contractors carry bonds but pay only a small annual premium--often as little as \$250. Low bond amounts run out quickly, leaving workers unpaid.

SOLUTION: AB 2227

The current bond system is failing to protect farmworkers. AB 2227 strengthens the system so workers can recover stolen wages by:

- **Improving transparency:** Making information about contractor bonds publicly accessible.
- **Increasing access:** Helping workers obtain the documentation needed to prove wage theft.
- **Expanding protections:** Ensuring more funds are available so workers are fully compensated, particularly when multiple workers are impacted.

TAKE ACTION | SIGN LETTER TO SUPPORT AB 2227

CAFARMWORKERCOALITION.ORG



AB 2227 (CONNOLLY) FARMWORKER WAGE THEFT REFORM ACT

California farmworkers are often denied wages they've earned. Farm Labor Contractors (FLCs)—hire and manage workers for growers—are responsible for paying wages and upholding labor rights, yet **the system meant to protect workers is failing.**

CA FARMWORKERS | ENDING WAGE THEFT

LANGUAGE BARRIERS

"My coworker was the one who contacted the foreman because I couldn't communicate well in Spanish. The foreman said the company had not prepared our check yet, and it took several weeks to pay us because we kept insisting."
(Farmworker from Fresno County)

UNPAID OVERTIME

"We've already submitted a claim to the Labor Commissioner's office, and we've been waiting for two years without receiving payment for minimum wage or overtime."
(Farmworker from Fresno County)

EMPLOYER LOOPHOLES

"The company changed its name three times. I only have one check stub, and he told me he'd changed the name because of a problem. I have copies of checks with different company names."
(Farmworker from Coachella Valley)

NO MINIMUM WAGE

"When you start a job, you don't know how much you will be paid per hour; you just show up looking for work and start working."
(Farmworker from Riverside County)

IMMIGRATION STATUS

"I felt humiliated. They took advantage of us and said we couldn't do anything because we didn't have papers. They said that if we spoke up, no one would believe us because "we didn't exist here."
(Farmworker from Coachella Valley)

NO PROTECTION

"I worked for him night and day, and I'd sleep for an hour, two hours, then go back, order some burritos, eat, and sleep in my pickup." [...] I feel terrible. Sometimes I cry so much. I worked nights just so they wouldn't pay me—it's not fair. Someone has to help me."
(Farmworker from Fresno County)

Grassroots members of the California Farmworker Coalition were given permission from farmworkers to share their stories. (MICOP, TODEC, CBDIO, CCEJN)

Every worker deserves to be paid for the work they do.

AB 2227 helps turn existing protections into real outcomes for working families by strengthening the systems designed to protect farmworkers from wage theft. **Supporting AB 2227 is a step toward ensuring that farmworkers can recover earned wages and that labor protections are meaningful, accessible, and effective.**



Scan to learn more and to hear from other farmworkers affected by wage theft.