



## **Northern New Mexico Central Labor Council**

Affiliated with the AFL-CIO

Serving Santa Fe, Los Alamos, Rio Arriba, Taos, San Miguel, Mora,  
and Colfax counties

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### **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Statement by Northern New Mexico Central Labor Council President Robin Gould on Standing Up For the Rights of Immigrant Workers**

“This week the Northern New Mexico Central Labor Council, representing all AFL-CIO unions in the northern part of the state, adopted a resolution calling on New Mexico unions and all five members of the New Mexico Congressional delegation to “Stand Up for the Rights of Immigrant Workers” and support comprehensive reform of our immigration laws.

With the new administration of President Obama and with leadership from the New Mexico Congressional delegation, we can make new advances on immigrant rights. As it stands today, our immigration system is nothing more than a blueprint for exploitation of both foreign and native-born workers. Overhaul of our nation’s broken immigration laws is long overdue. We believe that America deserves a more just and democratic immigration system that protects the interest of all workers within our borders – immigrants and U.S.-born workers alike. President Obama announced in June that he would support comprehensive reform of our immigration laws and hoped for legislation to be introduced in Congress before the end of the year.

Whereas previous immigration reform proposals were based on outdated temporary guestworker programs as a cure-all solution, the CLC resolution follows the national AFL-CIO policy and offers a more just and viable solution that will benefit all workers. To be effective, immigration reform must include three key goals: (1) reform proposals must provide a clear and well-defined path to permanent residency for those workers already here and contributing to their communities; (2) our laws must include uniform enforcement of workplace standards to ensure a more just and level playing field; and (3) reform must provide for improvement, not expansion, of temporary worker programs, limited to temporary or seasonal, not permanent, jobs. What immigrant workers need is a real path to legalization and a method for addressing America’s future needs for outside labor in a way that guarantees immigrant workers – and thus all workers – full rights, and a real voice on the job. As a nation that prides itself on fair treatment and equality, we simply cannot settle for anything less.

The CLC resolution also calls for a moratorium on all workplace raids by ICE, arrests, deportations, harassment, seizures and other abuses of undocumented workers. It further encourages CLC unions to work with local immigrant rights coalitions, faith and community groups to assist undocumented workers and ensure passage of a general legalization program.”