

Dear Friends,

We are grateful for your willingness to stand with the Justice For Farmworkers Campaign all of these years. We keep getting closer to the passage of the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act that would give farmworkers in New York State equality under the Labor law with others. But we are not there yet. To move us closer we need your presence in Albany on January 17<sup>th</sup>.



A group of courageous farmworkers will testify before a panel of Human Rights Observers about the impact of these exclusions upon their lives, and the lives of their families. The hearing will take place on January 17 from 10AM to 2PM at the New York State Capitol. The Human Rights Observers will have the opportunity to listen to the testimony of the farmworkers, as well as be able to ask them questions. In turn, the Observers, will gather briefly after the testimonies to issue a findings statement. Currently confirmed Human Rights Observers include Sam Waterston (actor, Law and Order), Tom Gerety (former director of the Brennan Center for Justice, and Johannes Jacome (Protection of Mexicans Abroad from the Mexican Consulate).

Farmworkers continue to be taken advantage of by the unfair labor conditions they are subjected to day in and day out as they work countless hours without overtime pay, without the right to organize or advocate for themselves, without workers' compensation, among other disadvantages. This will continue unless legislators step in and pass legislation like the Farmworker Fair Labor Practices Act (NY Senate Bill 2721 and Assembly Bill 4189) which would provide farmworkers with labor protections every other worker in the country have had since the 1930s.

Your presence will make a huge difference in both affirming the farmworkers, as well as sending a strong message to the Governor and the Legislature that these unjust exclusions must end. Please join us. Buses will be traveling from Western New York, Long Island, New York City, Westchester and the Hudson Valley. To let us know you are coming please register here: <http://bit.ly/FarmworkerHearing>

In peace,

Jose Chapa, Justice for Farmworkers Legislative Campaign Coord. Rural & Migrant Ministry & UFCW  
The Rev Richard Witt, Rural & Migrant Ministry

p.s. If you can make a donation to help make the Hearings possible – we would sure be appreciative: <http://ruralmigrantministry.org/donate-rmm>