

GUESTWORKERS
United Farm Workers
18th Constitutional Convention
August 22-24, 2008
Fresno, California

WHEREAS; small farmers in Mexico and other parts of the world are being forced due to economic necessity to emigrate to the US to improve their standard of living; and

WHEREAS; those who attempt to cross the US border without proper authorization increasingly are putting their lives at risk and paying thousands of dollars to coyotes; and

WHEREAS; widespread violations of workers rights, including the charging of thousands of dollars in recruitment fees, abusive working and living conditions, and fear of speaking out due to immediate deportation and blacklisting has typified the H-2A program; and

WHEREAS; US farmers have at times turned to this program in an effort to displace farm workers already in the US; and

WHEREAS; the H-2A visa program provides a temporary visa to agricultural workers to enter into the US for a limited period of time to work on US farms; and

WHEREAS; the H-2A program in one form or another will exist to meet the needs of US farmers to a “legal” workforce; and

WHEREAS; workers with H-2A visas are workers, the same as all other workers, the only difference between them being what kind, if any, visa they may have. and

WHEREAS; unionization provides the most effective mechanism to protect workers rights, regardless of their visa or legal status; and

WHEREAS; over the past forty years, the UFW has proudly represented agricultural workers from around the world, regardless of their visa status; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED; that the UFW will work diligently to ensure that eligible domestic workers are not displaced by H-2A workers; and furthermore

BE IT RESOLVED; that the UFW will work to create a guest worker program that will be just to workers, both in their sending countries and in the US;

BE IT RESOLVED; that the UFW will work in the sending countries to reduce, if not eliminate, the practice of charging recruitment fees;

BE IT RESOLVED; that the UFW will strive to represent a majority of workers with H-2A visas in the US to ensure their fair treatment no different than its efforts to organize other agricultural workers.