FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

STATEMENT FROM AMERICAN MUSHROOM INSTITUTE PRESIDENT RACHEL ROBERTS ON THE FARM WORKER MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2019


“For many years, the U.S. mushroom industry has made an overwhelming case for legislation to reform this nation’s broken immigration system and help build a legal and reliable agriculture workforce. This bill provides existing agricultural workers the opportunity to earn legal status by showing both prior employment as well as committed continued employment in agriculture; it makes several reforms to streamline the process in the H-2A guest worker program, including some access for year-round crops; and, over time through a careful phase-in, establishes a fair E-Verify system for the agricultural sector only after other changes are in place.

“Representative Chrissy Houlahan (D-PA, 6th) and Representative G.T. Thompson (R-PA, 15th), a key influential member of the House Agriculture Committee, were very helpful in supporting this bipartisan bill, and we appreciate their commitment to this issue and our industry in Pennsylvania, where nearly two-thirds of all mushrooms produced each year are grown. The bill was spearheaded by Representatives Dan Newhouse (R-WA, 4th) and Zoe Lofgren (D-CA, 19th). Key Republican support came from Adam Kinzinger (R-IL, 16th) and Lloyd Smucker (R-PA, 16th), while all but three House Democrats voted for the Act.

“The bill will now move to the Senate where we look forward to bipartisan debate and support.”

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About AMI

The American Mushroom Institute (AMI), headquartered in Avondale, Pennsylvania, is a national voluntary trade association representing the growers, processors and marketers of cultivated mushrooms in the United States and industry suppliers worldwide. For more information, visit www.americanmushroom.org.