Unfulfilled Promise: Collective Bargaining in California Agriculture



Unfulfilled Promise: Collective Bargaining In California

Agriculture by Philip L Martin

★ ★ ★ ★ 5 out of 5

Language : English

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An In-Depth Analysis of the History, Challenges, and Complexities of Labor Relations in the Industry

California agriculture is a multi-billion dollar industry that relies heavily on the labor of farmworkers. However, the history of labor relations in the industry is marked by exploitation, discrimination, and unfulfilled promises. This book explores the challenges and complexities of collective bargaining in California agriculture, shedding light on the struggles of farmworkers and the need for meaningful reform.

Historical Overview

The roots of collective bargaining in California agriculture can be traced back to the early 20th century. However, it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that farmworkers began to organize and demand better working conditions. This period saw the rise of the United Farm Workers

(UFW), which led several successful strikes and boycotts that improved wages and working conditions for farmworkers.

However, despite these gains, collective bargaining in California agriculture remains weak and fragmented. The industry is characterized by a high turnover rate, a lack of unionization, and a powerful agricultural lobby that has successfully resisted efforts to strengthen labor laws.

Challenges and Complexities

There are a number of challenges and complexities that make collective bargaining in California agriculture difficult. These include:

- The high turnover rate: The agricultural industry has a high turnover rate, which makes it difficult for unions to organize and maintain membership.
- The lack of unionization: Only a small percentage of farmworkers in California are unionized. This makes it difficult for unions to represent the interests of farmworkers and negotiate better contracts.
- The powerful agricultural lobby: The agricultural industry has a powerful lobby that has successfully resisted efforts to strengthen labor laws. This lobby has blocked legislation that would make it easier for unions to organize and bargain on behalf of farmworkers.

The Unfulfilled Promise

The history of collective bargaining in California agriculture is a story of unfulfilled promise. Despite the gains made by the UFW in the 1960s and 1970s, farmworkers continue to face exploitation, discrimination, and low

wages. The industry remains largely unregulated, and the agricultural lobby continues to block efforts to strengthen labor laws.

This book is a comprehensive exploration of the unfulfilled promise of collective bargaining in California agriculture. It sheds light on the struggles of farmworkers and the need for meaningful reform. The book concludes with a call for action, urging policymakers, labor leaders, and consumers to work together to create a more just and equitable agricultural system.

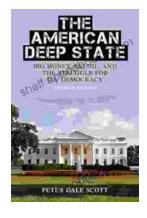


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