

April 30, 2009

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Chair
Senate Immigration Subcommittee
Subcommittee
U.S. Senate, Washington DC
DC

The Honorable John Cornyn
Ranking Member
Senate Immigration
U.S. Senate, Washington
DC

Dear Senators Schumer and Cornyn:

We applaud you for holding the important hearing Immigration Subcommittee hearing on immigration reform. For years, the Federal government has failed to deal with the broken immigration system and left our communities to deal with the effects: smugglers who take advantage of desperate workers; criminals who prey on immigrants because they think they won't be reported; millions of individuals who are not criminals but are working with false papers or driving without a license.

This lack of a coherent national immigration policy has created chaos in our communities and made the job of law enforcement much harder. We need to end the abuses of human smugglers and others who profit from our broken immigration system. We need all community members to feel safe reporting crimes and working with the police. We need every driver on our nation's roads to be licensed and insured.

Our Federal government must enact a comprehensive immigration law that secures the borders and legalizes undocumented workers who are not criminals. There should be stringent criteria for who qualifies, and they should go to the back of the line for U.S. citizenship. But from a law enforcement point of view, we need to know how is here in our country, get them documented, weed out the bad apples, and ensure we never face another build-up of illegal immigration again.

We look forward to the Committee's future deliberations over national immigration reform this year, and stand ready to assist in any way.

Respectfully,

Toussaint E. Summers Jr, Chief of Herndon Police Department, Herndon, Virginia

Jon Zumalt, Chief of North Charleston Police Department, North Charleston, South Carolina

Gregory Allen, Chief of El Paso Police Department, El Paso, Texas

Richard Wiles, El Paso County Sheriff, El Paso, Texas