Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 29, 2007

The Honorable George Bush
President
United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush,

As Members of the House of Representatives, we appeal to you on behalf of American workers. We urge you to continue recent efforts to vigorously enforce the laws that ensure that employers do not hire illegal immigrants.

Employers who hire illegal immigrants create unfair competition in the labor market and depress wages for all workers. The Center for Immigration Studies has found that the current level of immigration has reduced the wages of the average native-born worker in a low-skilled occupation by 12 percent a year, or almost $2,000. Alexander Aleinikoff, a former Clinton Administration INS official and now the Dean of Georgetown Law School, calls it a "myth" that "there is little or no competition between undocumented workers and American workers . . . ." The sixteen million Americans without a high school degree who have seen their wages stagnate or decline or who have lost their jobs would surely agree.

You can help protect these vulnerable Americans by enforcing our immigration laws. Existing law already prohibits businesses from employing illegal immigrants. Unfortunately, for years we saw enforcement decline steadily under both Democratic and Republican Administrations.

We are encouraged by your Administration's recent enforcement efforts. Your Administration should take more such bold steps.

We were heartened to read in the *Wall Street Journal* that an enforcement action at a plant was an "unexpected opportunity" for local American workers and that "[f]or the first time in years [the company] aggressively sought workers from the area's state-funded employment office . . . " Please give American workers the opportunities they deserve.

Sincerely,

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

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Member of Congress

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