

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20515

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Hal Rogers  
Chair, Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Martin Olav Sabo  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Congressman Sabo:

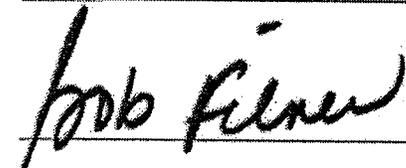
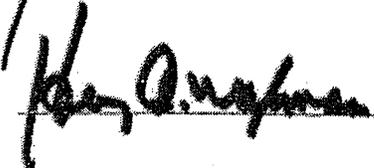
As Members of Congress representing the border state of California, we support full funding for an additional 2,000 Border Patrol agents each year for fiscal years 2006-10, as authorized in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 signed into law last December (P.L.108-458).

We were disappointed that President Bush requested funding for only 210 additional agents for fiscal year 2006. The Border Patrol currently patrols more than 8,000 miles along our international borders with Mexico, Canada and the coastal waters around Florida and Puerto Rico with less than 11,000 agents. Despite efforts to increase Border Patrol agents in the San Diego sector during the 1990s, crossings continue in rural, hard-to-reach and dangerous areas, often through highly organized human smuggling rings causing tragic deaths. We must fully fund the 2,000 Border Patrol agents authorized in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 for homeland security reasons, to minimize the number of human smugglers, and reduce the number of deaths that result from unsuccessful attempts to enter the United States.

We urge the Committee to adopt the Border Patrol funding levels authorized in the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, P.L.108-458.

Sincerely,

  
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Lois Caputo

Michael Wanda

Jack Horace Napolitano

Tom Far

Ausan A. Davis

Van Buren

Alan E. Schiff

Joe Shoo

Mike Thompson

Maureen E. Watson

cc: The Honorable Jerry Lewis  
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard