

Camarata

MASONRY SYSTEMS

November 9, 2007

Senator John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Fax: 202-228-2856

Re: Comprehensive Immigration Reform

Dear Senator Cornyn:

As a constituent and Texas business owner, I am writing this letter to thank you for the work that you have done towards achieving comprehensive immigration reform. I am also writing you this letter to ask for your help in finishing the job; even if it means working an extended Congressional session to do it.

I read with great interest both your and Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson's comments on this issue and agree with most of the positions (i.e. securing our borders, charging resident illegal immigrants a penalty, expelling criminals, etc). However, I strongly disagree with Senator Hutchinson's assessment that we should require the gainfully employed illegal immigrant population to return to their home country. This would have the net effect of penalizing all businesses in the Southwestern United States that have built their companies with the available workforce. These law abiding employers have followed the law explicitly and required the necessary documentation from their applicants. They have then expended time and resources training this workforce. Unfortunately, the Federal government has not done its job of protecting our borders resulting in an enormous flow of illegal immigrants who all, apparently, have access to expertly forged documents. The employers have no way of knowing this and, in fact, could be penalized for discrimination by not hiring someone on the suspicion of being illegal. If the published projections are even close to being accurate, a majority of the workforce in some major industries will be required to leave the country. You can imagine the effect this will have on businesses that have behaved honorably and lawfully. They will go bankrupt. Their owners will lose everything that they have worked for inclusive of their primary residences that have been pledged on bank lines of credit.

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It is not possible to instantaneously replace a skilled workforce that has been trained for a decade or more. If you think about it, the reason that these people were hired in the first place is because they were willing to do the work. They applied. Where are the replacement workers going to come from? I will tell you that, in our business, there is no waiting list of applicants. Historically, there are almost no Caucasian or African American applicants. The country is not the same as it was forty years ago and, as is the case with any successful business, we must adapt to the current reality. This immigrant workforce, many of whom we are told by the prognosticators are illegal, are a necessary component of our current way of life. They are here through a complete breakdown of our government's obligation to provide secure borders. We cannot penalize the businesses that have been built on this workforce and we cannot afford to adversely affect the industries that drive this economy. Accordingly, we cannot afford to send them back to their home countries.

Senator, I ask that you consider the aforementioned points and oppose your fellow Senator's position on sending the gainfully employed illegal immigrant workforce back to their home country. I appreciate the time and effort that you have expended on the immigration issue and I ask that you continue to push for a meaningful comprehensive reform package now; even if it means extending the Congressional session. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or wish to use me as a sounding board for any immigration issue and its effect on Texas business.

Respectfully,



Kevin M. Camarata
President of the General Partner

cc: Mr. Norman Adams, Texans for Sensible Immigration Reform