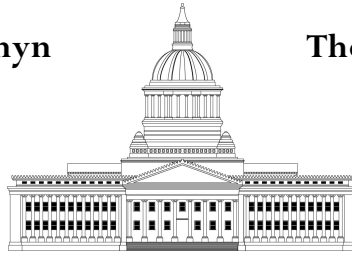


The Honorable John Cornyn
United States Senator
Washington, D.C.



The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee
Member of Congress
Washington, D.C.

February 22, 2007

Dear Colleagues:

This year, we will again have an opportunity to accomplish what our country has long needed – reform of our flawed immigration system. It is no secret that the current system is not working – in part because the agencies responsible for enforcing our immigration laws lack adequate resources to do their jobs.

While we made limited progress on immigration in the 109th Congress, we completed 2006 without comprehensive resolution. The debate highlighted the particular difficulty of two questions:

- How do we successfully secure our nation's borders without inhibiting the free flow of trade and commerce into the United States?
- How do we address the current population of undocumented immigrants in the United States?

As we push anew for consensus this year, we need to look for reform ideas that provide necessary security for our nation while minimizing adverse impact on the U.S. economy. It's clear that all good ideas are not generated in Washington. Some originate with individuals and groups in the heartland that have had direct, day-to-day experience with the issue.

We've heard from one such voice – Texans for Sensible Immigration Policy, a rapidly-growing ad hoc association of contractors, subcontractors, vendors and associations in the construction industry. This group, founded in Houston, is focused on the need for sound, comprehensive immigration reform that, in their words, "secures our borders and keeps our economy strong." Similar coalitions are forming across the U.S. in anticipation of renewed Congressional debate on immigration reform this spring.

This is not a group of lawyers or paid lobbyists. These are people who own businesses, sign paychecks, and create jobs. They've produced a DVD narrated by Texas broadcaster Ron Stone with a summary of their views; a copy is enclosed with this letter. (It's also available on their website at www.txsip.com.) We have found their perspective to be useful and informative, and we believe you will as well.

This DVD does not advocate or oppose any specific piece of legislation. Instead, it urges legislators to find ways to resolve the immigration issue in cooperation with **good faith** employers in a way that restores respect for our laws. We believe you and your staff will find it to be a useful addition to the debate.

Sincerely,


John Cornyn


Sheila Jackson Lee