March 12, 2014

Dear Representative:

Fixing our nation’s broken immigration laws is among the most important issues of interest to America’s mayors currently before the U.S. House of Representatives. We believe strongly that maintaining the status quo will further damage the economic, political and social structure of our cities and our country. As Mayors, we have a ground-level understanding of the pressing economic and moral imperatives that necessitate changing our national immigration system, and we urge the House to expeditiously bring legislation to the floor.

- Like the constituents we serve, we believe that a meaningful fix to immigration must begin with a strengthening of border security. Further, interior enforcement should be improved to enhance our ability to identify and remove visa overstays, but our state and local law enforcement must be able to remain focused on community policing.

- We believe the nation would benefit from a less bureaucratic and more time-sensitive system that allows workers of all types - seasonal, agricultural, lesser-skilled and high skilled – to lawfully come to America, either temporarily or permanently, and contribute to our economy.

- As we fix immigration, we must also provide a uniform system of employment verification. We recognize that competing technologies and approaches exist and believe they should be tested against one another in determining the best manner for accurately authenticating workers.

- There are equally compelling moral dimensions also related to fixing immigration that underscore the importance of moving forward with the effort. We believe that it is vital for any immigration legislation to enable people to come out of the shadows and fully pursue the American Dream for themselves and their families. This is also essential to our efforts to combat crime and provide effective police protection for our citizens.

Thank you for your consideration of our views. We believe the time is ripe for Congress to pass legislation that fixes immigration and creates a system that builds our economy, meets the nation’s future workforce requirements, eliminates the incentives to enter the country illegally, humanely deals with the undocumented persons already here, and works to keep families together.

Sincerely,

Scott Smith, Mayor of Mesa, AZ, President
Kevin Johnson, Mayor of Sacramento, CA, Vice President
Stephanie Rawlings-Blake, Mayor of Baltimore, MD, Second Vice President
Raul G. Salinas, Mayor of Laredo, TX, Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force
Tom Tait, Mayor of Anaheim, CA, Co-Chair, Immigration Reform Task Force
Mark Stodola, Mayor of Little Rock, AR
Marie Lopez Rogers, Mayor of Avondale, AZ
Georgia Lord, Mayor of Goodyear, AZ
Greg Stanton, Mayor of Phoenix, AZ
Gail Barney, Mayor of Queen Creek, AZ
Mark Mitchell, Mayor of Tempe, AZ
Jonathan Rothschild, Mayor of Tucson, AZ
Kathleen DeRosa, Mayor of Cathedral City, CA
Bruce Barrows, Mayor of Cerritos, CA
Aja Brown, Mayor of Compton, CA
Gilbert Wong, Mayor of Cupertino, CA
Fernando Vasquez, Mayor of Downey, CA
Bill Harrison, Mayor of Fremont, CA
Ashley Swearengin, Mayor of Fresno, CA
Bert Hack, Mayor of Laguna Woods, CA
Bob Foster, Mayor of Long Beach, CA
Eric Garcetti, Mayor of Los Angeles, CA
Aide Castro, Mayor of Lynwood, CA
Jill Techel, Mayor of Napa, CA
Mary Ann Lutz, Mayor of Monrovia, CA
Jean Quan, Mayor of Oakland, CA
Bill Bogaard, Mayor of Pasadena, CA
John Chiang, Mayor of Piedmont, CA
Peter Aguilar, Mayor of Redlands, CA
Alonso Ledezma, Mayor of San Jacinto, CA
Chuck Reed, Mayor of San Jose, CA
Miguel Pulido, Mayor of Santa Ana, CA
Helene Schneider, Mayor of Santa Barbara, CA
Karyl Matsumoto, Mayor of South San Francisco, CA
Abbe Land, Mayor of West Hollywood, CA
Christopher Cabaldon, Mayor of West Sacramento, CA
Steve Hogan, Mayor of Aurora, CO
Michael B. Hancock Mayor of Denver, CO
Phil Cernanec, Mayor of Littleton, CO
Bill Finch, Mayor of Bridgeport, CT
Pedro Segarra, Mayor of Hartford, CT
Manuel Santos, Mayor of Meridan, CT
Toni Harp, Mayor of New Haven, CT
Harry Rilling, Mayor of Norwalk, CT
Vincent Gray, Mayor of Washington, DC
Mami Sawicki, Mayor of Cape Coral, FL
Jean Robb, Mayor of Deerfield Beach, FL
Luigi Boria, Mayor of Doral, FL
Joy Cooper, Mayor of Hallandale Beach, FL
Lori Moseley, Mayor of Miramar, FL
Lucie Tondreau, Mayor of North Miami, FL
Buddy Dyer, Mayor of Orlando, FL
William Capote, Mayor of Palm Bay, FL
Frank Ortis, Mayor of Pembroke Pines, FL
John R. Marks III, Mayor of Tallahassee, FL
James Thomas, Jr., Mayor of Hinesville, GA
Bernard Carvalho, Mayor of Kauai, HI
T.M. Franklin Cownie, Mayor of Des Moines, IA
John Schmitt, Mayor of Algonquin, IL
Elizabeth Tisdahl, Mayor of Evanston, IL
Rodney Craig, Mayor of Hanover Park, IL
Nancy Rotering, Mayor of Highland Park, IL
William McLeod, Mayor of Hoffman Estates, IL
Kevin C. Richardson, Mayor of Lake Barrington, IL
Sandra Bury, Mayor of Oak Lawn, IL
Laurel Prussing, Mayor of Urbana, IL
Wayne Motley, Mayor of Waukegan, IL
Jim Brainard, Mayor of Carmel, IN
Karen Freeman-Wilson, Mayor of Gary, IN
Gregory A. Ballard, Mayor of Indianapolis, IN
Pete Buttigieg, Mayor of South Bend, IN
Mark Holland, Mayor of Kansas City, KS
Greg Fischer, Mayor of Louisville, KY
Lorenz Walker, Mayor of Bossier City, LA
Setti Warren, Mayor of Newton, MA
Robert MacDonald, Mayor of Lewiston, ME
Nathan Triplett, Mayor of East Lansing, MI
Bryan Barnett, Mayor of Rochester Hills, MI
Tim Wilson, Mayor of Brooklyn Center, MN
Elizabeth B. Kautz, Mayor of Burnsville, MN
Don Ness, Mayor of Duluth, MN
Jim Hovland, Mayor of Edina, MN
Ardell Brede, Mayor of Rochester, MN
Percy Bland, Mayor of Meridian, MS
Sylvester James, Jr., Mayor of Kansas City, MO
Francis Slay, Mayor of St. Louis, MO
Shelley Welsch, Mayor of University City, MO
Lovely Warren, Mayor of Rochester, NY
Esther Manheimer, Mayor of Asheville, NC
William Bell, Mayor of Durham, NC
Bernita Sims, Mayor of High Point, NC
Bobby Kilgore, Mayor of Monroe, NC
Michael Venezia, Mayor of Bloomfield, NJ
John Ducey, Mayor of Brick, NJ
Albert G. Santos, Mayor of Kearny, NJ
Brian Wahler, Mayor of Piscataway, NJ
Tony Mack, Mayor of Trenton, NJ
Barry Wright, Mayor of Winslow Twp., NJ
Ken Miyagishima, Mayor of Las Cruces, NM
Andy Hafen, Mayor of Henderson, NV
David Hartzell, Mayor of Clarence, NY
Paul Dyster, Mayor of Niagara Falls, NY
Gary McCarthy, Mayor of Schenectady, NY
Donald Plusquellic, Mayor of Akron, OH
Frank G. Jackson, Mayor of Cleveland, OH
Dennis Wilcox, Mayor of Cleveland Heights, OH
Michael Coleman, Mayor of Columbus, OH
Nan Whaley, Mayor of Dayton, OH
David Berger, Mayor of Lima, OH
Peter Edison, Mayor of Banks, OR
Denny Doyle, Mayor of Beaverton, OR
Gary Schirado, Mayor of Durham, OR
Kitty Piercy, Mayor of Eugene, OR
Shane Bemis, Mayor of Gresham, OR
Jerry Willey, Mayor of Hillsboro, OR
Charlie Hales, Mayor of Portland, OR
John Cook, Mayor of Tigard, OR
Lou Ogden, Mayor of Tualatin, OR
Ed Pawlowski, Mayor of Allentown, PA
Michael Nutter, Mayor of Philadelphia, PA
William Peduto, Mayor of Pittsburgh, PA
C. Kim Bracey, Mayor of York, PA
Edwin Garcia, Mayor of Camuy, PR
“Mayita” Melendez Altieri, Ponce, PR
Joseph P. Riley, Jr., Mayor of Charleston, SC
Steven Benjamin, Mayor of Columbia, SC
William Collins, Mayor of Summerville, SC
Kim McMillan, Mayor of Clarksville, TN
Madeline Rogero, Mayor of Knoxville, TN
Danny Thomas, Mayor of Morristown, TN
Tommy Bragg, Mayor of Murfreesboro, TN
Robert Cluck, Mayor of Arlington, TX
Mike Rawlings, Mayor of Dallas, TX
Douglas Athas, Mayor of Garland, TX
Annise Parker, Mayor of Houston, TX
Beth Van Duyne, Mayor of Irving, TX
Lucy Johnson, Mayor of Kyle, TX
Allen Owen, Mayor of Missouri City, TX
Harry LaRosiliere, Mayor of Plano, TX
Ralph Becker, Mayor of Salt Lake City, UT
William Euille, Mayor of Alexandria, VA
George Wallace, Mayor of Hampton, VA
Amy Walen, Mayor of Kirkland WA
Andy Ryder, Mayor of Lacey, WA
Matt, Watkins, Mayor of Pasco, WA
John Marchione, Mayor of Redmond, WA
Edward Murray, Mayor of Seattle, WA
Marilyn Strickland, Mayor of Tacoma, WA
Timothy Leavitt, Mayor of Vancouver, WA
Paul Soglin, Mayor of Madison, WI
Justin Nickels, Mayor of Manitowoc, WI
John Dickert, Mayor of Racine, WI