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The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

First, I want to thank you for your leadership in handling the recent hurricane relief. The storms did a lot more damage than most of us expected. And while there were mistakes made on the local, state and federal level, your leadership was unquestionable. You urged the state and federal governments to act and when they failed to do so, you did not criticize, but went to work moving the federal government to act as quickly as possible. And you urged Congress to appropriate sufficient funds to carry out the massive relief effort. Your sensitivity to the needs of the people in that region is commendable.

I am writing today to make recommendations and solutions concerning the upcoming immigration debate. It is obvious that we can control our borders if sufficient action, agents, infrastructure and material are provided. Approximately 16 miles of border fence in the San Diego area is a good example. The areas visually patrolled by the "Minutemen" are another example.

It is estimated it would take some \$1,000,000.00 per mile or \$2,000,000,000.00 for the entire border to provide the infrastructure and materials -- together with some 15,000 additional agents -- to stop illegal immigration along our southern border. I would urge your administration to work with the Congress to start making funds available immediately. Some of these funds could be provided through Homeland Security. Certainly, no country can begin to be secure without control of its borders. We know that the hundreds of thousands of people illegally crossing our borders annually are not all Latino. Many are coming from Eastern Europe and the Middle East, as well as Asia. Certainly nothing could be more important to our homeland security than controlling those illegal entries.

I know it will take a certain amount of time for the infrastructure that we are recommending to be completed and for recruiting and training the extra agents. During that period of time, I would like to recommend that you thank our border patrol agents for the good job they are doing, and commend the "Minutemen" for their peaceful yet informative experiment. And to show the nation's commitment, I recommend that

National Guard troops be called up in their respective border states to back up our border patrols until the extra agents can be put into the field.

I know that you have voiced a plan that would enable the country to expand its visa program for those workers who wish to come and are needed in this country, and certainly we have existing visa rules and regulations to help people comply. But there should be no amnesty such as we experienced in 1986.

Amnesty makes a mockery of our laws and no country can exist if such a vital part of our laws is ignored. It is also unjust for those citizens who are trying to follow our laws and enter our country legally, only to have to wait or perhaps be denied citizenship because their places are filled with illegal immigrants. That is neither moral nor just and should not be allowed to continue.

I feel that a substantial portion of the Congress and the American people will back you in this courageous decision. My district is often assessed as being a bellwether district for the country. Therefore, you will find a list of constituents from my district in Western North Carolina who agree with the content of this letter. With warmest regards, I am,

Sincerely,



Charles H. Taylor
Member of Congress