

DAVID DREIER
CALIFORNIA

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON
RULES



233 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2305

2220 EAST ROUTE 66, SUITE 225
GLENORA, CA 91740
(626) 852-2626
(866) 373-6321

<http://dreier.house.gov>

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515
July 21, 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528-0001

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

I am writing in support of California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger's request for the Department of Homeland Security to dedicate a substantial amount of the recently approved Border Patrol personnel and resources to the California/Mexico border. As you know, these new resources were provided for in recently enacted law and currently pending legislation.

Border security is critical to our national security, and protecting the California border is crucial to safeguarding the American people. The California/Mexico border is a major route for illegal entry into our country, facilitating activities such as illegal drug trafficking and human smuggling. This year, Congress approved \$1.8 billion for border security, providing for an additional 1,500 Border Patrol agents, and \$61 million for border security technology, including surveillance and unmanned aerial vehicles. I strongly support Governor Schwarzenegger's request to allocate a significant portion of these resources to the California/Mexico border.

While we must continue to provide the critical resources needed to protect our borders, it is imperative that we address the underlying cause of illegal immigration: the lure of economic opportunity. That is why I authored H.R. 98, the Illegal Immigration Enforcement and Social Security Protection Act, to secure our borders and crack down on the hiring of illegal immigrants. H.R. 98 creates a "smart" Social Security card to allow employers to verify the legal work authorization status of prospective employees using a database administered by DHS. The bill also increases penalties against employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants and adds a minimum of 10,000 enforcement personnel to ensure compliance of the law. Enacting the Bonner Plan into law would provide us with a powerful tool to stop illegal immigration. I look forward to working with you on this proposal.

The combination of increased border security and immigration enforcement will provide California with the necessary resources to protect U.S. borders and enhance our national security. I strongly support Governor Schwarzenegger's request and appreciate your consideration of the matter.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David".

David Dreier

Encl.



GOVERNOR ARNOLD SCHWARZENEGGER

July 19, 2005

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary of Homeland Security
United States Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Mr. Secretary,

The Department of Homeland Security has identified California as one of the highest threat areas in the country. We have numerous urban areas; several ports that accept international cargo daily; thousands of miles of mass transit, rail and highways; and internationally identified critical infrastructure like the Golden Gate Bridge. California also shares a heavily traveled border with Mexico, which increases our vulnerability as a potential entrance point for terrorists.

In addition, a recent report by the Associated Press found that Mexican border crossings were "some of the pipelines in Latin America and Canada that have illegally channeled thousands of people into the United States from so-called special interest countries...."

Such reports underscore the need to ensure effective enforcement of our country's immigration laws. Last year, Congress passed legislation authorizing your Department to hire and train an additional 2,100 border patrol agents. Congress has taken action this year to appropriate the funds necessary for the Department to have these new patrols on the border in Fiscal Year 2006. Given the Congressional commitment to border security, I am asking that you allocate a significant portion of these additional border resources to California's border with Mexico. It is important for the federal government to take all possible steps to secure our border. Mexico is one of California's most important trading partners. A secure, orderly border enhances this strong economic relationship and smoothes the flow of people and goods along our mutual border. Placing additional border patrol agents in California is an important step in meeting these goals.

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We are all aware of the citizens who have begun patrolling the border on their own to bring attention to the border security issue. While I share their frustration, I believe the ultimate solution lies with the federal government deploying an adequate number of border patrol agents to ensure a safe, effective and responsible border security operation.

Thank you for your immediate consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arnold Schwarzenegger". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping initial "A" and a long, horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Arnold Schwarzenegger