

Congress of the United States

House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

October 1, 2009

The Honorable Barack H. Obama
President of the United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500-0003

Dear Mr. President,

Securing our borders is a top national security priority. Border agents that patrol the southern border with Mexico play an instrumental role in this effort. As the fiscal year begins, we urge you to allocate the number of border agents necessary to protect our nation's borders.

As you know, the U.S.-Mexico border is 1,954 miles long. During a hearing before the House Oversight and Government Reform Committee, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Field Operations, Todd Owen, estimated that only 697 miles of the Mexican border are under effective control. That leaves more than 1,200 miles of our southern border vulnerable to illegal crossings by drug smugglers, terrorists, human traffickers and other criminals. The American people demand that the southern border be secured.

Recent reports of rampant violence reinforce the urgency with which we need to secure the southern border. On July 23, 2009 Border Agent Robert Rosas was murdered near the border while tracking illegal immigrants. Earlier this month a human smuggler tried to run over a Border Patrol agent, and on September 22 Border Patrol agents discharged weapons in a confrontation at the San Ysidro border crossing. Bullets from a shootout in Mexico even struck buildings at the University of Texas at Brownsville earlier this month, forcing the school to shut down for three days. Unfortunately, instances such as these are not rare and a reduction in force would only exacerbate the problems.

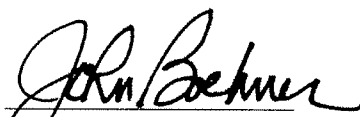
Now is not the time to reduce the number of agents protecting the United States along the border with Mexico. We are concerned about this crisis and are willing to work with you to ensure that the Border Patrol has the workforce necessary to accomplish its mission, including reducing border violence and stopping the flow of illegal immigrants.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

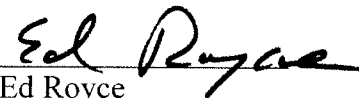
Sincerely,



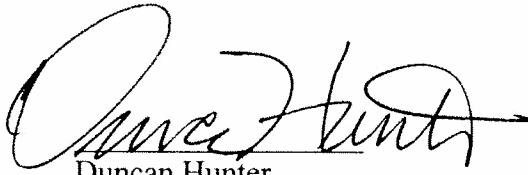
Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress



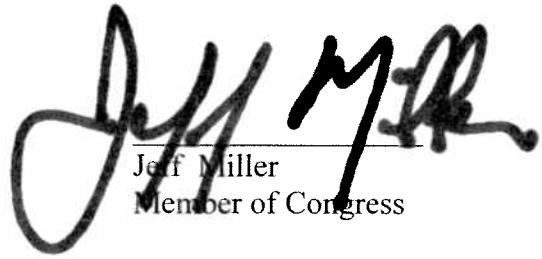
John Boehner
Member of Congress



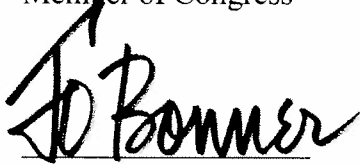
Ed Royce
Member of Congress



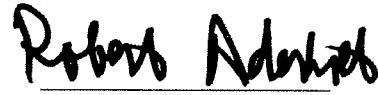
Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



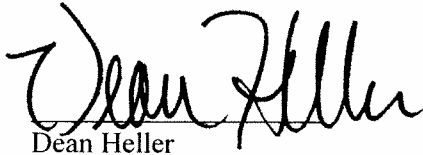
Jeff Miller
Member of Congress



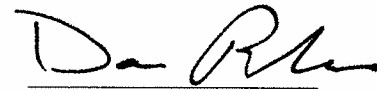
Jo Bonner
Member of Congress



Robert Aderholt
Member of Congress



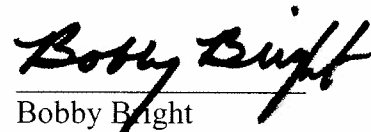
Dean Heller
Member of Congress



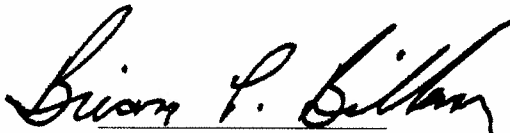
Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



John Boozman
Member of Congress



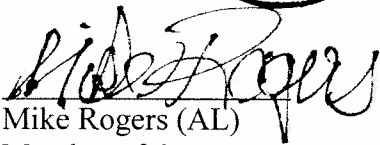
Bobby Bright
Member of Congress



Brian Bilbray
Member of Congress



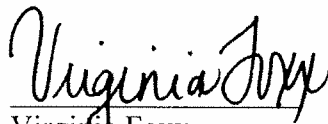
Parker Griffith
Member of Congress



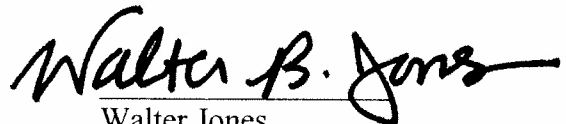
Mike Rogers (AL)
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



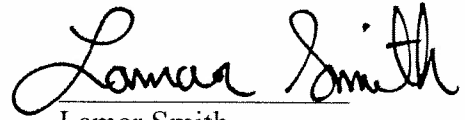
Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress



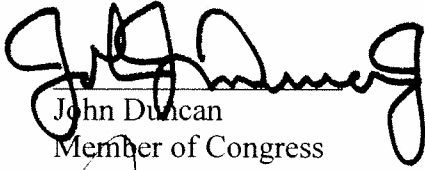
Walter Jones
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



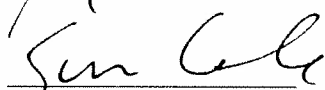
Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



John Duncan
Member of Congress



Thaddeus McCotter
Member of Congress



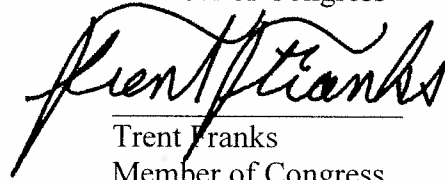
Tom Cole
Member of Congress



Artur Davis
Member of Congress



Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



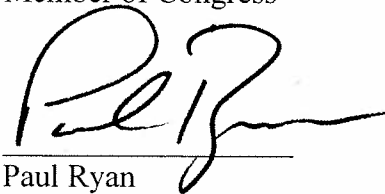
John Campbell
Member of Congress



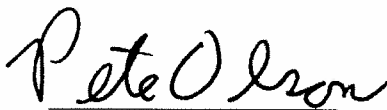
K. Michael Conaway
Member of Congress



Tom Price
Member of Congress



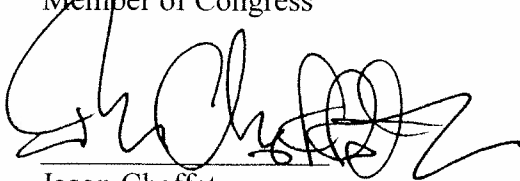
Paul Ryan
Member of Congress



Pete Olson
Member of Congress



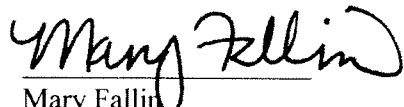
Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress




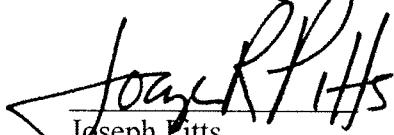
Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress




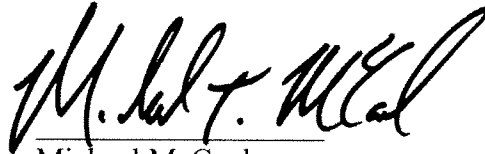
Todd Akin
Member of Congress

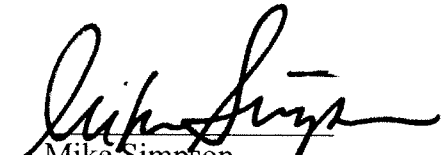

Mary Fallin
Member of Congress

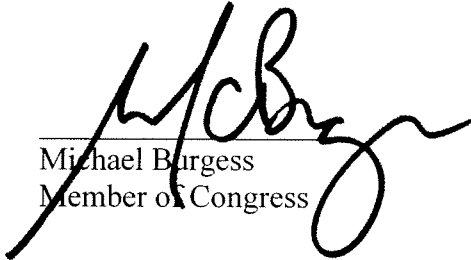

Jeb Hensarling
Member of Congress

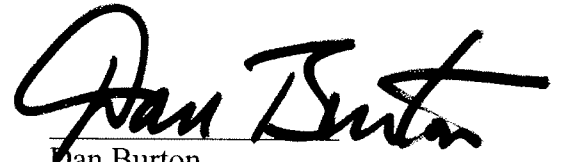

Joseph Pitts
Member of Congress



Steve King
Member of Congress

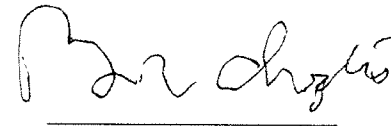

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



Mike Simpson
Member of Congress

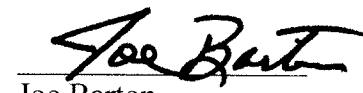

Michael Burgess
Member of Congress

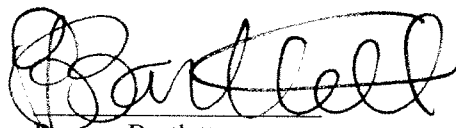

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

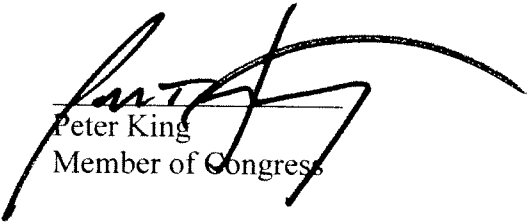

John Barrow
Member of Congress


Bob Inglis
Member of Congress

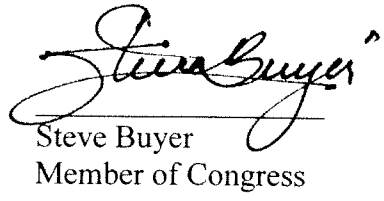

John Linder
Member of Congress


Joe Barton
Member of Congress


Roscoe Bartlett
Member of Congress



Peter King
Member of Congress



Steve Buyer
Member of Congress