

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 16, 2004

The Honorable Asa Hutchinson
Under Secretary for Border and Transportation Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
425 Eye Street, NW #7030
Washington, D.C. 20536

Dear Mr. Under Secretary:

Many of us met with you to express our concern about the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) handling of the U.S. Border Patrol's use of Mobile Patrol Groups to locate and apprehend illegal immigrants in public places.

We commend the Border Patrol for its efforts to carry out its mission of interior enforcement. It is clear that this type of interior enforcement is needed, as demonstrated by the results of one Mobile Patrol Group of twelve agents working out of the Temecula Station. From June 4 to June 22, this unit apprehended 492 illegal immigrants.

We are concerned that DHS is discontinuing these enforcement actions. Reportedly, agents have been told to cease Mobile Patrols. Additionally, the Department's public statements critical of these enforcement actions, on the grounds that proper policy approval processes were not followed, are perceived as backing away from the successes of your DHS in fulfilling the DHS mission of immigration enforcement.

One of the Department's primary missions is interior enforcement. We encourage DHS to review its policies and allow the Border Patrol the flexibility it needs to do its job. Once again, we commend the Border Patrol for its efforts at interior enforcement, and we urge you to support the Border Patrol in its efforts to fully enforce the law.

Sincerely,

Ed Royce

Les Colwell

Chris Cox

Dana Rohrabach

Amelia

My A W

John T. Dabille

Edna Dabille

Wally Herger

Mary Ann

Richard Banks

Bob McHenry

'Duke' Campbell

Wm. Thomas

Jim Whelan

Tracy Lee

Bill Jones

George Panarich
