Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 9, 2011

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Members of the bipartisan Immigration Reform Caucus along with members of the House vehemently oppose your August 18, 2011 announcement to bypass Congress and use prosecutorial discretion to achieve amnesty for individuals who are illegally residing in the U.S. The manner with which your administration has introduced this policy not only robs the public of a thorough vetting, but it also fails to appreciate the negative consequences of this policy shift.

Over the last several years, with the support of the American public, Congress has consistently defeated amnesty proposals for illegal aliens. This recent effort appears to be nothing more than an attempt to avoid public review and unilaterally impose amnesty by picking and choosing which laws to enforce; or in this case, not to enforce, thereby enabling illegal aliens to remain in the country.

In addition, we are convinced the consequences of implementing this policy, will include, but certainly not be limited to, the loss of public confidence and the encouragement of future illegal immigration. Even prior to this, the American public's confidence in the Administration to address illegal immigration was tenuous at best. This is evidenced by the number of states that have initiated and passed their own immigration enforcement laws. This shift in policy confirms the general public's suspicion that the Administration is not serious about controlling illegal immigration.

Also, this policy has the added affect of further encouraging illegal immigration. Frankly put, if we don't take our own laws seriously enough to enforce, why should we expect anyone to follow them? This policy will introduce a new wave of illegal immigrants emboldened with the knowledge that not only is it okay to break the law, but they will likely be rewarded for it with de facto amnesty status; thereby exacerbating an already vicious cycle we as a nation have been trying to address for over two decades.

This attempt to satisfy the narrow interests of the pro-amnesty lobby has ultimately earned the distrust of the greater American public. Our fear is that this policy will irreparably harm the prospects of true immigration reform for many years to come. Mr. President, our request is simple: enforce our immigration laws evenly without passion, prejudice or preference.

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Sincerely,

Brian P. Bilbray
Member of Congress

Ed Royce
Member of Congress

John Culberson
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

Ted Poe
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta
Member of Congress

Paul Gosar
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Steven Palazzo
Member of Congress

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Michael McCaul
Member of Congress

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

Joe Walsh
Member of Congress

Allen West
Member of Congress

John Duncan
Member of Congress

Gary Miller
Member of Congress

Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

John Kline
Member of Congress

Ed Whitfield
Member of Congress

Tim Huelskamp
Member of Congress

Jeff Landry
Member of Congress

Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress

John Campbell
Member of Congress

Dan Burton
Member of Congress

Bill Huizenga
Member of Congress

Donald Manzullo
Member of Congress

Virginia Foxx
Member of Congress

Raul Labrador
Member of Congress

Geoff Davis
Member of Congress

Joe Wilson
Member of Congress

Lynn A. Westmoreland
Member of Congress

Phil Roe
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller
Member of Congress

Adam Kinzinger
Member of Congress

Blaine Luetkemeyer
Member of Congress

Steve Stivers
Member of Congress

Alan Nunnelee
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Sam Johnson
Member of Congress

Diane Black
Member of Congress

Andy Harris
Member of Congress

Michael Fitzpatrick
Member of Congress

Spencer Bachus
Member of Congress

Ken Calvert
Member of Congress

Mike Kelly
Member of Congress

Larry Bucshon
Member of Congress

Dan Benishek
Member of Congress

Dennis Ross
Member of Congress

Sandy Adams
Member of Congress

James Lankford
Member of Congress

Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress

Jean Schmidt
Member of Congress

Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress

Steve Womack
Member of Congress

Bill Posey
Member of Congress

Gus Bilirakis
Member of Congress

Tim Griffin
Member of Congress

Cory Gardner
Member of Congress

Frank Guinta
Member of Congress

Mike Pompeo
Member of Congress

Ben Quayle
Member of Congress

Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress

Richard Nugent
Member of Congress

Vern Buchanan
Member of Congress

Blake Farenthold 7-7-27

Blake Farenthold
Member of Congress

J. Randy Forbes
Member of Congress

Tom Marino
Member of Congress