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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0550

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SUBCOMMITTEE ON
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COMMUNICATION AND TECHNOLOGY
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATION
HOUSE REPUBLICAN
POLICY COMMITTEE
IMMIGRATION REFORM
CAUCUS, CHAIRMAN

March 12, 2012

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

Dear Mr. President:

As members of the bipartisan House Immigration Reform Caucus, we oppose efforts to defund the 287(g) program as proposed in your fiscal year 2013 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security. To do so would be shortsighted and undo the work and new found level of cooperation that law enforcement agencies have built throughout the United States.

The 287(g) program provides state and local law enforcement with the training to identify, process, and detain possible immigration offenders. This program extends the federal government's ability to enforce our immigration laws without the additional overhead. This program has been highly successful at not only apprehending immigration offenders but has facilitated the incarceration of dangerous criminals and has contributed to overall public safety.

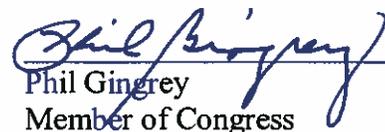
Your plan to transfer resources from the 287(g) program to the Secure Communities program would put too much pressure on one aspect of an overall interior enforcement strategy. If the 9/11 Commission Report has taught us anything, it is that an overreliance on one program or agency is a recipe for failure. It is the combination of these programs and other law enforcement collaborations that has proven successful, not their independence.

Defunding the 287(g) program would negate and rollback all the gains made by local, state and federal law enforcement agencies working together. In fact, state and local law enforcement agencies are assets that the federal government should find ways to expand, not limit. Regrettably, to do otherwise is inviting failure.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We remain available to work with you to identify real solutions to enforcing our immigration laws throughout the country.

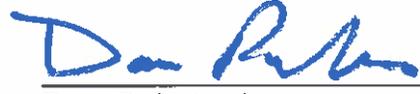

Brian Bilbray
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress



Ed Royce
Member of Congress



Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



John Sullivan
Member of Congress



Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress



Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



Lynn Westmoreland
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Jason Chaffetz
Member of Congress



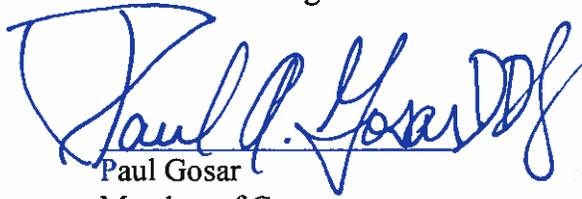
Kenny Marchant
Member of Congress



Walter Jones
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Bob Goodlatte
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Paul Gosar
Member of Congress



Sue Myrick
Member of Congress



Alan Nunnellee
Member of Congress



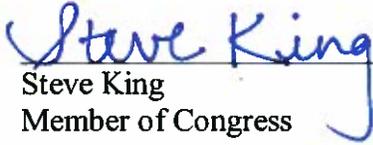
Chip Cravaack
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress



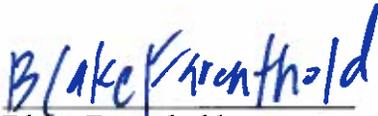
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Steve King
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Steve Womack
Member of Congress



Blake Farenthold
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Rob Woodall
Member of Congress



Ted Poe
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