March 20, 2012

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
Chairman
House Subcommittee on Homeland Security
B307 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: Fiscal Year 2013 Funding for the 287(g) Immigration Enforcement Program

The Honorable Robert Aderholt:

As members of the bipartisan House Immigration Reform Caucus, we oppose efforts to defund the 287(g) program as proposed in President Obama’s 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.

We understand and appreciate the tight fiscal constraints the Committee is confronting, however we ask that the committee consider maintaining the FY 2012 287(g) program funding level of $68 million. 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.

Again, thank you for the opportunity to express our strong support of the 287(g) Immigration Enforcement Program. A core constitutional duty for the Federal Government is to preserve and protect the integrity of our borders. It should be the focus of Congress and the Administration to adequately fund core constitutional duties such as border protection.

Sincerely,

Brian Bilbray
Member of Congress

Lamar Smith
Member of Congress
Mike Rogers
Member of Congress

Sue Myrick
Member of Congress

Steve King
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall
Member of Congress

Walter Jones
Member of Congress

Phil Gingrey
Member of Congress

Marsha Blackburn
Member of Congress

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress

John Carter
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress

John Duncan
Member of Congress

Trent Franks
Member of Congress