March 20, 2012

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-307 Capitol

The Honorable Norm Dicks  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB

The Honorable Frank Wolf  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
H-309 Capitol

The Honorable Chakah Fattah  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science  
Committee on Appropriations  
1016 Longworth HOB

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Wolf, and Ranking Members Dicks and Fattah:

The enforcement of federal immigration law continues to inadequately meet the challenges created by the millions of illegal aliens residing in our country. In order to aid in the enforcement of these laws, the federal government provides several grant programs to offset the costs incurred by local governments. One of these programs is the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which provides funding to local governments through the Bureau of Justice Programs (BJP) for the costs of detaining and incarcerating illegal immigrants who have been convicted of a crime.

Unfortunately, several local governments across the country have in place policies and laws that contradict and prevent the enforcement of federal immigration law. These entities are referred to as sanctuary cities. Despite their policies that allow criminal illegal aliens to remain unidentified and on the streets, sanctuary cities are still eligible for, and receive, SCAAP funding.

We believe that sanctuary cities, which undermine the effective enforcement of current immigration laws, should not be eligible to receive this funding. This policy change would have the effect of urging greater compliance with our country’s immigration laws, and greater responsibility with taxpayer money.
Therefore, we encourage you, as part of your deliberations on the Department of Justice appropriations bill, to prohibit any state or locality that has in effect a law, policy, or procedure in contravention of federal immigration law or that prohibits law enforcement officials from gathering information regarding the citizenship or immigration status of an individual, to be ineligible for SCAAP funding.

Thank you for your consideration and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress

Sue Myrick  
Member of Congress

Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

Steve King  
Member of Congress

Kenny Marchant  
Member of Congress

Diane Black  
Member of Congress

Rob Woodall  
Member of Congress

Dan Burton  
Member of Congress