

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

November 14, 2007

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
H-107, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader Hoyer:

We want to express our serious concern and disappointment that \$3 billion in emergency spending for border security was recently removed from the Conference Report on H.R. 3222, the Fiscal Year 2008 Defense appropriations bill. Every day, our constituents tell us about the need to secure our international borders, and the \$3 billion is a critical investment that the federal government needs to make. Congress must immediately provide the resources that our border agents and immigration enforcement officers need to secure our borders and keep our country safe.

We are a nation of immigrants. We are also a nation of laws, and sadly the federal government is not doing enough to enforce those laws. Under the Bush Administration, enforcement of our immigration laws has been grossly neglected and operational control of our borders has not been achieved. In fact, according to the Government Accountability Office, several thousand inadmissible aliens successfully entered the United States in 2006 because of staffing shortages and weak inspection practices at airports and other border entry points (GAO-08-219, *Despite Progress, Weaknesses in Traveler Inspections Exist at Our Nation's Ports of Entry*). We will not stand idly by, and this critical investment is a necessary first step that will go a long way to strengthening our nation's security.

As the House and Senate continue to complete their work on fiscal year 2008 appropriations bills, we believe that this \$3 billion must be included in legislation enacted this year. These funds must be made available to the Department of Homeland Security and U.S. Customs and Border Protection as soon as possible, and this resource investment cannot wait. We appreciate the hard work you have put into the appropriations process this year, and we look forward to continuing to work for a better, stronger, and safer America.

Sincerely,


NICK LAMPSON BARON P. HILL CHRISTOPHER P. CARNEY
Member of Congress Member of Congress Member of Congress