Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–4302

December 13, 2011

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

Dear Mr. President:

It has recently come to our attention that your administration plans to reduce the presence of National Guard troops deployed along the U.S.-Mexico border in the coming year. We have grave concerns about this proposed shift in policy and we urge you to extend the current deployment of 1,200 National Guard troops on the southern border past December 31, 2011. As you know, crime and violence on our southern border has increased significantly in recent years, and the crimes committed are no longer confined to the Mexican side of the border, or just to Mexican citizens.

In November of this year, four suspected members of the Los Zeta's cartel launched a military style ambush on a truck carrying marijuana, which was part of a sting operation in Houston, Texas. The driver was killed, and a sheriff deputy was injured in this brazen attack. This incident was a reminder that drug cartel violence is not just a problem on the Mexican side of the border. The drug cartels, which increasingly operate on both sides of our southern border, are growing bolder and more aggressive every day. These criminals show no hesitation in using violence to intimidate law enforcement in Mexico or the United States. Now is not the time to decrease our presence on our southern border.

We ask that you maintain at least the current force of 1,200 National Guard along the southern border. As you know, the Government Accountability Office recently reported that the U.S. Border Patrol currently maintains operational control of only 44 percent of our southern border. The physical presence of the National Guard has been successful at deterring illegal crossings and violence, and should be maintained until the U.S. Border Patrol can increase its numbers, and regain operational control of the majority of the U.S.-Mexico border. We look forward to working with you to ensure the integrity of our southern border, and the safety and security of all Americans.

Sincerely,

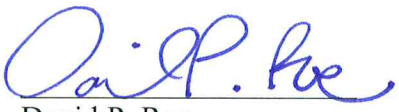
TED POE
Member of Congress

Jason Altmire
Member of Congress

Michael T. McCaul
Member of Congress

Pete Olson
Member of Congress

Kay Granger
Member of Congress



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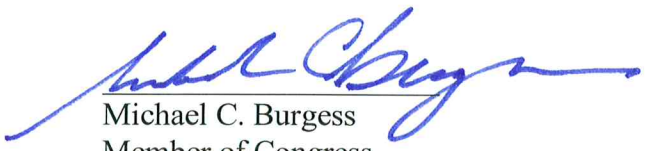

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Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher
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Dan Burton
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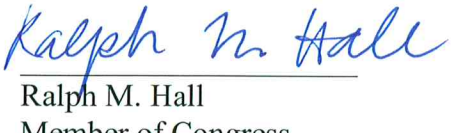
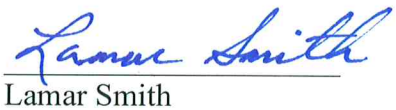
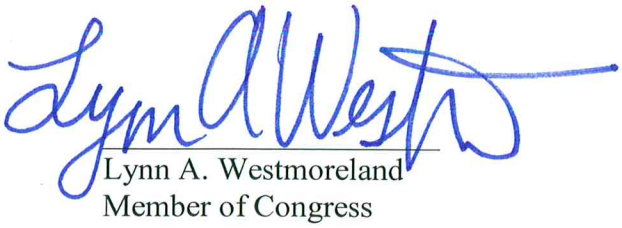


Ralph M. Hall
Member of Congress



Lamar Smith
Member of Congress



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