

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 26, 2010

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

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

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Majority Leader Hoyer:

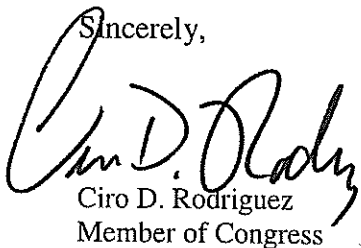
On April 15, 2010, we led 50 Members of Congress requesting that the House of Representatives approve a surge in funding to secure our border with Mexico, and on July 1, 2010, the House responded by passing a supplemental appropriations package for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan that included needed border funding to protect our citizens right here at home.

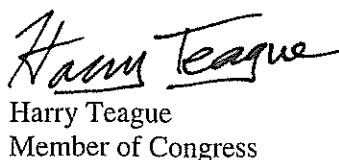
We are very disappointed, however, to see the Senate has rejected the \$701 million for border security previously approved by the House for inclusion in the FY2010 Supplemental Appropriations bill. Among other efforts, this funding would have provided for 1,200 additional Border Patrol Agents, 500 additional officers at ports of entry, and much needed grant funding for local law enforcement along the border. This funding is essential to maintain safe communities on the border and crack down on drug smuggling and other border crime. We strongly urge you to work with the Senate to reinstate this funding, and we ask that any supplemental appropriations legislation for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan include this critical funding for the security of our borders and the American citizens living along them.

The President made a supplemental funding request to Congress highlighting the urgent need to enhance efforts to secure the border, including adding Border Patrol agents. A recent GAO report also highlighted the inequities between staffing levels of the US-Canadian and US-Mexico ports of entry. While northern border ports maintain sufficient staffing levels, southern ports remain overwhelming short. Support for local law enforcement, like Operation Stonegarden remains much of the only federal funding accessible to those who are often the first line of defense against border crime.

We understand that large deficits demand a return to fiscal responsibility. However, our top priority must always be the protection of our citizens and the security of our borders. We look forward to continuing our work to maintain a safe and secure border.

Sincerely,


Ciro D. Rodriguez
Member of Congress


Harry Teague
Member of Congress


Gabrielle Giffords
Member of Congress