

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 8, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary of Homeland Security  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano,

We are deeply concerned that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is using sequestration as a vehicle to further the Administration's disregard for enforcing our immigration laws. Specifically, we are troubled by recent reports that DHS has released hundreds of illegal immigrants, rather than finding cost savings elsewhere in the agency.

Your agency's decision to release "low-risk" illegal immigrants back into the public under the guise of saving money is extraordinary, unprecedented and dangerous. We understand that U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), like all federal agencies, must find cost savings in order to comply with their new budget allocation. However, it is frankly irresponsible that your agency chose releasing detained immigrants as its first effort to control spending.

The inability of DHS to prioritize resources for potential cuts suggests this decision was either politically motivated to further the Administration's amnesty goals or, at best, demonstrates agency incompetence.

Even more troubling are reports of dangerous criminals being released through this unilateral decision. According to a February 26 *New York Times* article, one illegal immigrant released was also convicted of simple assault, simple battery and child abuse. Allowing individuals like this, who should be deported, to roam the streets of our neighborhoods unnecessarily exposes law-abiding citizens to risk.

Given the public safety and national security concerns this decision raises, we respectfully request you halt any further action to release detained illegal immigrants. Also, please respond to the following questions, regarding individuals already released, pending release, or anticipated to be released:

- The number of detainees released and the geographic location of where the releases took place;
- Any plans for future releases, and the geographic location of where those releases will take place;

- The name of the DHS official who authorized the review of detained illegal immigrants for release;
- The criteria used to determine who is eligible for release;
- The number of reviewed detainees denied release and the specific reasons for such denials;
- A list identifying cuts to the DHS budget implemented prior to the release of the detainees, the budget savings achieved, and why these savings were insufficient;
- The budget savings achieved through the release of illegal immigrants, and a description of the analysis conducted to weigh cost savings vs. public safety concerns;
- How DHS is tracking illegal immigrants released under this plan, and whether they will be ordered back to detention centers if funding becomes available.

Thank you in advance for your timely attention to this matter. We eagerly look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



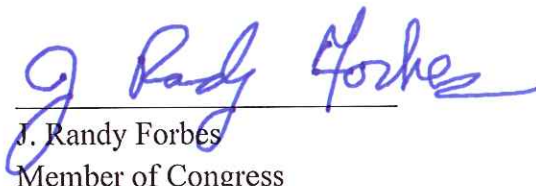
Duncan Hunter  
Member of Congress



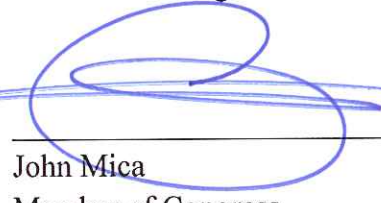
John Kline  
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Ed Royce  
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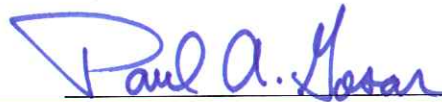
J. Randy Forbes  
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John Mica  
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Ted Poe  
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Paul Gosar  
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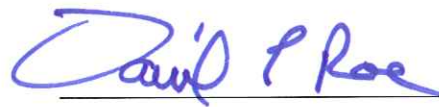
  
David Schweikert  
Member of Congress

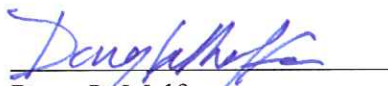
  
John Campbell  
Member of Congress

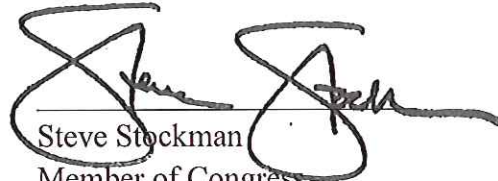
  
John Culberson  
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Trent Franks  
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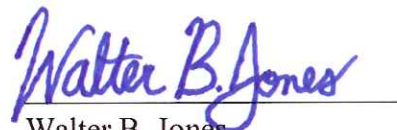
  
Rob Bishop  
Member of Congress

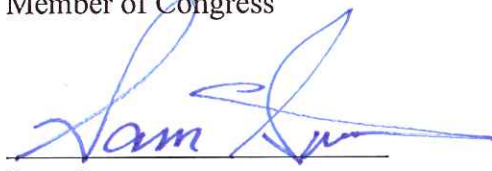
  
Phil Roe  
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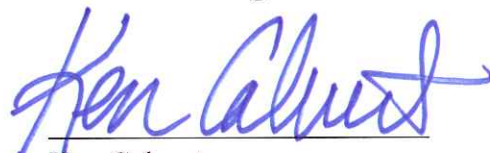
  
Doug LaMalfa  
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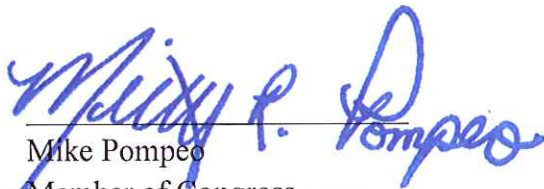
  
Steve Stockman  
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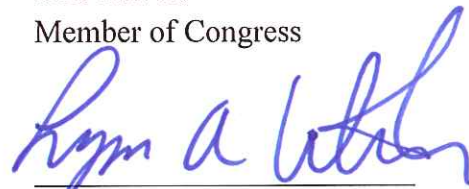
  
Michael Grimm  
Member of Congress

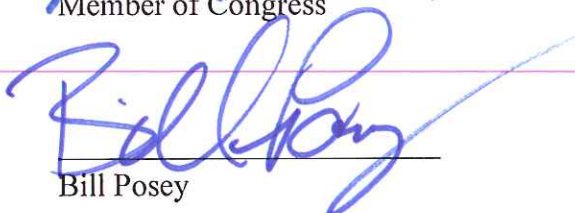
  
Walter B. Jones  
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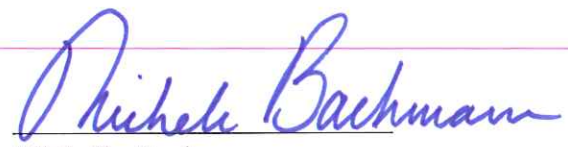
  
Sam Graves  
Member of Congress

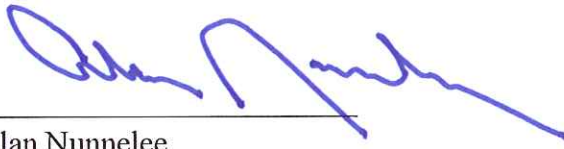
  
Ken Calvert  
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Mike Pompeo  
Member of Congress

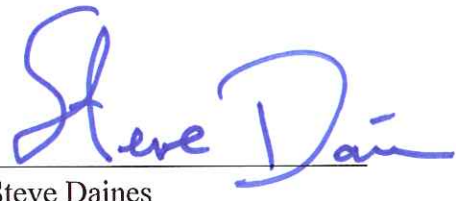
  
Lynn A. Westmoreland  
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Bill Posey  
Member of Congress

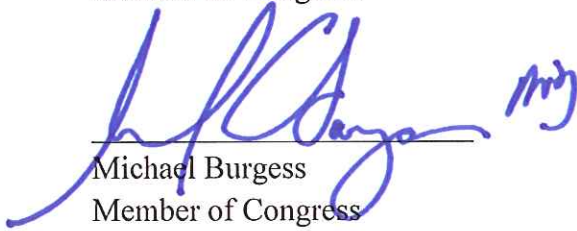
  
Michelle Bachmann  
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Alan Nunnelee  
Member of Congress



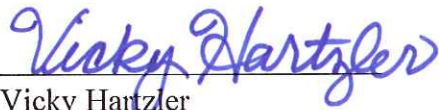
Steve Daines  
Member of Congress



Michael Burgess  
Member of Congress



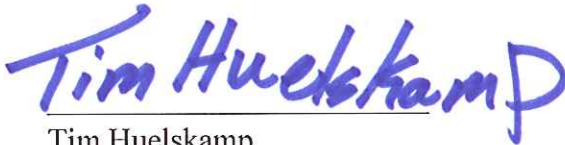
Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Vicky Hartzler  
Member of Congress



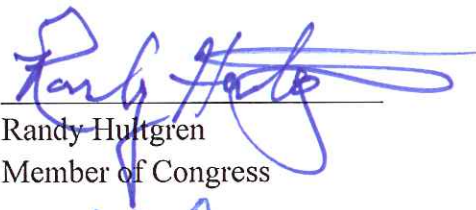
Dana Rohrabacher  
Member of Congress



Tim Huelskamp  
Member of Congress



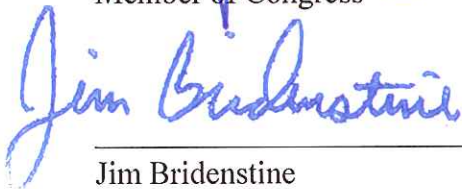
C. W. Bill Young  
Member of Congress



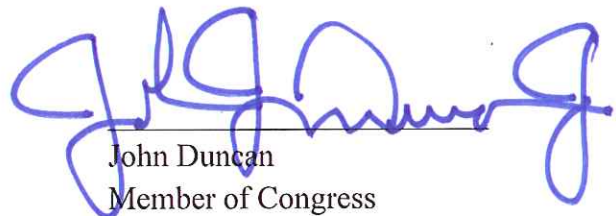
Randy Hultgren  
Member of Congress



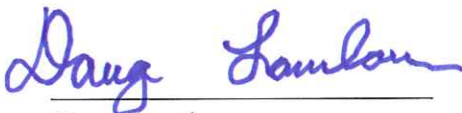
K. Michael Conaway  
Member of Congress



Jim Bridenstine  
Member of Congress



John Duncan  
Member of Congress



Doug Lamborn  
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable John Morton