

March 13, 2007

Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congresswoman Lynn Woolsey

RE: Immigration law reform and the recent enforcement actions in Marin County by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Branch of the Department of Homeland Security

Dear:

Thank you for the attention of your office to the recent enforcement actions of the Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Branch of the Department of Homeland Security, and for your responsiveness to the needs of the community in the wake of those activities. We especially appreciate assistance from Senator Boxer's in scheduling a meeting with ICE officials on short notice. During that March 9th meeting, San Rafael Mayor Al Boro, Police Chief Matt Odetto, and I shared our mutual concerns about ICE enforcement methods and public information practices. We also were able to hear in person what are the practices approved by ICE in exercising their deportation enforcement duties.

On March 13th, the Marin County Board of Supervisors held a public meeting and received testimony from a range of perspectives. Following the hearing, the Board approved a letter that will be sent to the ICE Administrator, (insert name), requesting confirmation of specific ICE practices, related to notification of parties, communication rights of detainees, consideration of children during and after enforcement activities, and enforcement activities within schools or in the vicinity of their bus stops.

The Board also requests your assistance in several matters.

First, we ask for your facilitation in securing a written description of ICE enforcement practices in order for us to have a basis of community education and a baseline for accountability when enforcement activities occur.

Understanding that the enforcement actions of ICE are prescribed by federal immigration laws, we also ask you to work to reform immigration laws enacted after September 11, 2001, to remove practices that are inconsistent with our community values. Specifically, we request these laws be revised to limit detention and arrest of individuals to only those with signed warrants related to deportation.

We know that you are aware that deportation actions are but a small part of a vastly more complicated national immigration policy. We believe that current deportation practices are incapable of addressing the problem, and that they cause disruption in the community that is widely disproportionate to the small benefit they bring. We conclude that is very urgent that Congress take up the vitally needed reform of our nation's immigration enforcement laws and programs.

Again, we are very thankful for your concern regarding immigration, and are deeply appreciative to be represented by a legislator who so clearly shares the values of our mutual constituencies.

Sincerely,

Steve Kinsey, President
Marin County Board of Supervisors