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June 3, 2010

County of Los Angeles Board of Supervisors
Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors Molina, Ridley-Thomas, Yaroslavsky, Knabe, and Antonovich:

I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the misguided decision made by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to boycott the State of Arizona by a vote of 3 to 2. I commend Supervisors Knabe and Antonovich for casting the correct vote; they are on the right side of this issue and should be applauded.

In order to respond to our nation's ongoing illegal immigration and border security problems, the State of Arizona recently enacted the Support our Law Enforcement and Safe Neighborhoods Act. Specifically, the new Arizona law mirrors federal law, which already requires aliens to register and carry their documents with them. Arizona's law simply states that violating federal immigration law is now a state crime as well. Because illegal immigrants are by definition in violation of federal immigration laws, under the new provisions they can now be arrested by local law enforcement in Arizona. While many have expressed concern that the law will lead to racial profiling, the new statute only allows police to ask about immigration status in the normal course of a "lawful stop," such as a traffic stop or if the individual has committed a crime. In fact, the law explicitly bars racial profiling.

Quite frankly, the move made by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to boycott Arizona is outright hypocritical. As you know, Los Angeles County is a participant in the 287(g) program, which provides state and local law enforcement officers with statutory immigration enforcement authority, in addition to their inherent authority. Like the Arizona law, this program is not limited to "dangerous" criminals, as some have suggested, but designed to let state and local law enforcement officials help enforce all immigration laws and to remove illegal immigrants from the streets before they go on to commit preventable crimes.

In addition, every year Los Angeles County implores their federal representatives for increased State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP) funding. In fact, last year Los Angeles County was reimbursed \$15.4 million for incarcerating illegal immigrants and several weeks ago Los Angeles County officials were in Washington, DC again begging for more money. If Los Angeles County thinks the State of Arizona is wrong to simply enforce federal immigration laws, then the County should reimburse the millions of dollars it has received from the federal government for jailing illegal immigrants. At least this would be consistent policy.

I urge the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors to reconsider its decision to boycott Arizona. State and local governments have the right to protect its citizens and enforce federal immigration statutes.

Sincerely,

GARY G. MILLER
Member of Congress