

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 6, 2010

The Honorable Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Attorney General Holder,

We write to express our disappointment and serious concerns about today's announcement that the Department of Justice has filed a lawsuit against Arizona. Arizona has taken a reasonable, constitutional approach to dealing with a problem that has been ignored by the Obama Administration.

You claim that the law promotes racial profiling, yet the law expressly prohibits racial profiling four separate times. You claim that the law requires non-citizens to carry identification that they wouldn't otherwise be required to carry, yet federal law requires non-citizens including visitors and lawful permanent residents (Green Card holders) to keep their registration documents on their person. The Arizona law simply requires non-citizens to follow the federal law!

You claim that the law requires police officers to stop people on the streets to question them about their immigration status. In fact, this provision of the Arizona law only takes effect if and after a police officer has made a 'lawful stop, detention or arrest...in the enforcement of any other law or ordinance of a county, city or town...' Individuals may not be stopped simply on suspicion and asked for their papers.

Not only does this lawsuit reveal the Obama Administration's contempt for immigration laws and the people of Arizona, it reveals contempt for the majority of the American people who support Arizona's efforts to reduce human smuggling, drug trafficking and illegal immigration. Arizona's law simply applies state penalties to acts already illegal under federal law.

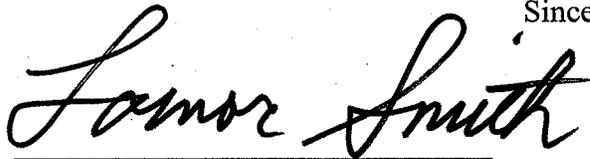
Previous Arizona statutes protecting its residents from the harmful effects of illegal immigration have been upheld as constitutional by federal courts. The notoriously liberal Ninth Circuit upheld Arizona's 2007 law mandating that employers in the State use E-Verify to check the employment eligibility of new hires and revoke the business licenses of employers who knowingly hire illegal immigrants.

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The new Arizona statute is harmonious with federal immigration law and uses current federal criminal provisions as the basis for state criminal provisions. And in barring racial profiling, the Arizona law explicitly adheres to the strict standards of the U.S. Constitution.

The position that the Obama Administration has taken on the Arizona law and the resulting lawsuit not only disregards the will of the majority of Arizonans but also the will of the majority of Americans.

Sincerely,



Lamar Smith



Steve King



Trent Franks



Ed Royce



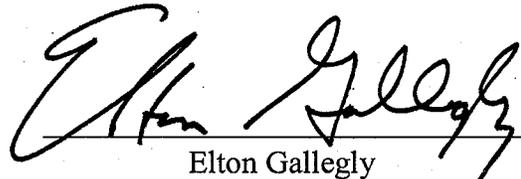
Todd Tiahrt



Dana Rohrabacher



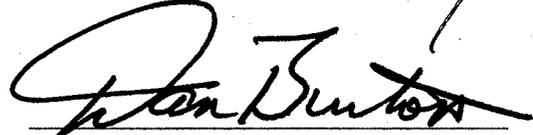
Sue Myrick



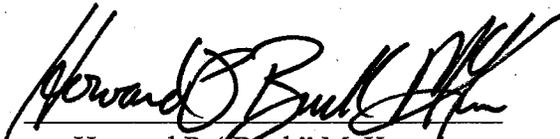
Elton Gallegly



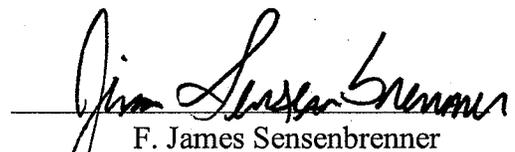
Marsha Blackburn



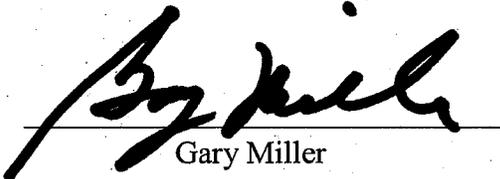
Dan Burton



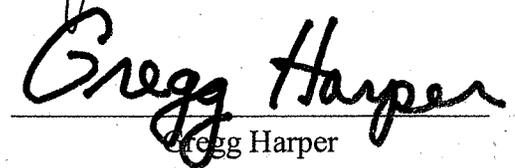
Howard P. "Buck" McKeon



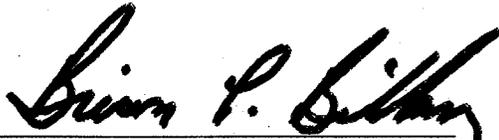
F. James Sensenbrenner



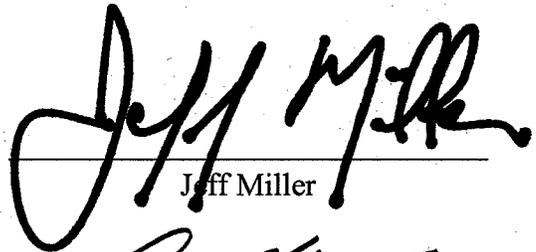
Gary Miller



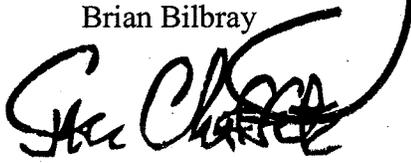
Gregg Harper



Brian Bilbray



Jeff Miller



Jason Chaffetz



Darrell Issa



Peter King



John Carter