



WESTERN
GOVERNORS'
ASSOCIATION



"Serving Western Legislatures"



May 16, 2006

The Honorable Bill Frist
Majority Leader
United States Senate
S-230 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7020

The Honorable Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United States Senate
S-221 Capitol Building
Washington, DC 20510-7020

Dear Majority Leader Frist and Minority Leader Reid:

On behalf of elected officials across the West, we applaud your recent agreement to bring immigration legislation before the Senate again. Further, we are encouraged that your negotiations included an agreement on a conference committee process. Your efforts have made enactment of a comprehensive immigration reform and border security legislative package a real possibility.

As elected officials addressing the impacts of immigration at the local and state level we agree that any legislation must be comprehensive. Through our own processes, our colleagues have joined to support key principles that we believe should be part of any federal initiative. These principles include, but are not limited to, increased border security and enforcement provisions; dedicated funding to state and local governments to offset costs associated with illegal immigration; enactment of a guest worker program; and reforming foreign worker visa procedures to reduce the delay of legal immigration processes. We uphold these common principles despite our region's political or geographic diversity.

Please rest assured that we appreciate the complexity and controversy associated with the immigration issue. However, it is our opinion that legislation must link the labor and marketplace demands, societal concerns, and the need to protect and enhance national security. We stand ready to assist you in your efforts to move forward on a comprehensive legislative package and look forward to working with you on this important issue.

Thank you for your leadership.

Sincerely,


Janet Napolitano
Governor of Arizona

Co-Lead on Border Security/Immigration


Jon Huntsman

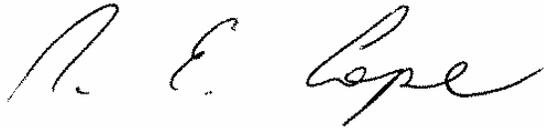
Co-Lead on Border Security/Immigration



Senator Ron Teck, Colorado
Chair, CSG-*West*



Representative Jeff Morris, Washington
Chair-Elect, CSG-*West*



Commissioner Robert Cope
Lehmi County, Idaho
President, NACO-Western Interstate Region



Commissioner Connie Eissinger
McCone County, Montana
Past President, NACO-Western Interstate Region

cc: House of Representatives Leadership