Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 8, 2006

MEXICAN CONGRESS ADOPTS RESOLUTION TO ADDRESS ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

Dear Colleague:

We are taking the unusual step of sending you this bicameral and bipartisan letter in order to bring your attention to an important document.

We recently attended the 45th annual meeting of the U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group in Valle de Bravo, Mexico. As you might well imagine, the discussion was dominated by the topic of immigration. During the meeting, the Mexican delegation presented a resolution entitled, "Mexico and the Migration Phenomenon," which was adopted unanimously by the Mexican Congress on February 16, 2006.

This historic resolution reflects a new commitment by the Mexican Congress to confront Mexican immigration. This call was first made by President Vicente Fox during his inaugural address, when he said, "Mexico needs every Mexican." While those of us signing this letter have different views about illegal immigration and how to resolve it, we are united in agreeing that this resolution makes a very important contribution to the debate in both countries. **The document represents the first public acknowledgement that Mexico must accept responsibility for solving the immigration problem**. The recommendations in the resolution include the commitment of the Mexican Congress to ensure that every Mexican who leaves the country does so through legal channels. It also commits the Mexican government to securing both its northern and southern borders. These principles and the accompanying recommendations represent a sharp departure from past practices in Mexico, and we thought it important enough to bring this to your attention.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact one of us, or have your staff contact Ted Brennan, Professional Staff Member, House International Relations Committee, at 5-0517. A copy can also be found on the International Relations Committee Website at wwwc.house.gov/international_relations.

Sincerely,

Jim Kolbe, Chairman
Member of Congress
U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group

John Cornyn, Chairman
United States Senate
U.S.-Mexico Interparliamentary Group

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Member of Congress
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