

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 21, 2009

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Obama:

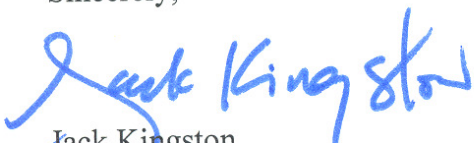
We are writing to reaffirm our strong support for Executive Order 12989, issued June 2008, which will require federal contractors and subcontractors that receive new contracts to verify the employment eligibility of all new hires.

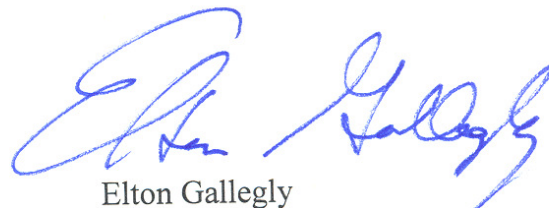
This rule was set to take effect January 15th, 2009, but a lawsuit by five industry associations halted the implementation. The lawsuit asserts that the rule is not in line with the law authorizing E-verify, as it states DHS "may not require any person or other entity to participate" in the program. However, this rule does not violate statute because accepting a government contract is voluntary. E-verify will continue to be voluntary to the rest of the country's employers.


In the coming weeks, Congress will debate a near-trillion dollar economic stimulus intended, in part, to address the nation's high unemployment. How can we allow for illegal immigrants to benefit from this proposed stimulus when so many of our legal citizens suffer from unemployment? How can we saddle our children and grandchildren with an historic deficit when illegal immigrants, many of whom do not pay taxes, will benefit? Private companies competing for government contracts should abide by the laws and regulations set forth by this government.

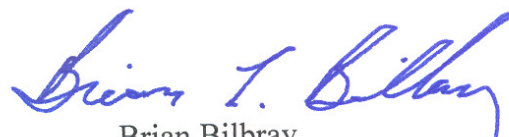
We need to assure the American people that their tax dollars are being used wisely and not to pay unlawful immigrants. Again, we ask you to demonstrate your commitment to helping unemployed U.S. citizens by immediately implementing this rule upon taking office.

Sincerely,


Jack Kingston
Member of Congress


Elton Gallegly
Member of Congress


Ken Calvert
Member of Congress


Brian T. Bilbray
Member of Congress