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April 15, 2013

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Boehner  
Speaker of the House of Representatives  
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Minority Leader McConnell, Speaker Boehner,  
Minority Leader Pelosi,

We are a bipartisan group of state attorneys general who recognize that immigration policy is primarily a federal responsibility. We are writing to convey our support for federal immigration reform that improves our immigration system, keeps our communities safe and protects our borders.

We believe that maintaining the safety and security of the United States is the utmost priority. Our immigration system must ensure the protection of our communities and the integrity of our national borders. We support a law enforcement strategy that focuses on public safety, targets serious crime, safeguards witnesses and victims, and considers national security implications for porous borders. We further urge a reasonable and predictable regulatory environment that considers the interests of, and the unintended consequences to businesses, workers and consumers. A broader reform effort should eventually include a way to accurately, reliably and affordably determine who's permitted to work, ensuring an adequate labor force for a growing economy.

Our immigration system must be flexible enough to address the needs of businesses in the various states, with state input, while protecting the interests of workers. This includes a visa system that is both responsive and effective in meeting the demands of our economy. It should also acknowledge the beneficial economic contributions immigrants make as workers, tax payers, and consumers.

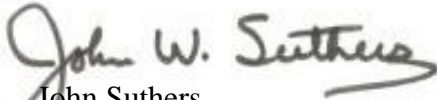
Our immigration policies, where possible, should prioritize keeping families together in order to ensure the most supportive home environment for all the children across our country.

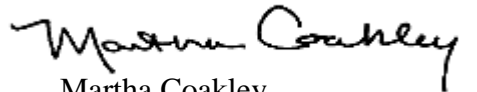
Our immigration policies must provide a sensible means to deal with the immigrants who are currently in the country without legal status but are of good character, pay taxes and are committed to continuing to contribute to our society.


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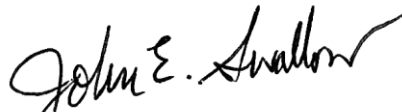
We look forward to working with you as you move forward in this process and lending our voice and expertise as you develop legislation.

Sincerely,

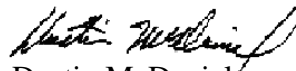
  
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Massachusetts Attorney General

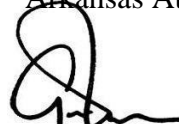
  
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Nevada Attorney General


  
John Swallow  
Utah Attorney General


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Afoa Leulumoega Lutu  
American Samoa Attorney General

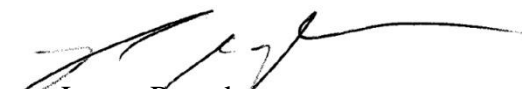
  
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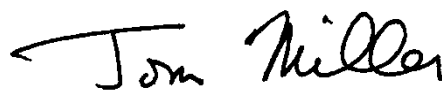
  
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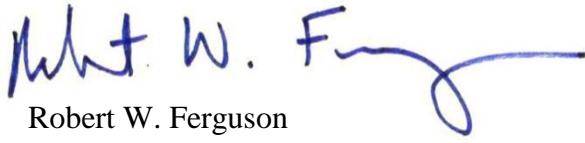
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Vincent Frazer  
Virgin Islands Attorney General

Handwritten signature of Robert W. Ferguson in blue ink.

Robert W. Ferguson  
Washington Attorney General

Handwritten signature of Gregory A. Phillips in blue ink.

Gregory A. Phillips  
Wyoming Attorney General

Cc: United States Attorney General Eric Holder  
Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano