

September 19, 2011

Senator Patty Murray

Senator Maria Cantwell

Representative Norm Dicks

Representative Jay Inslee

Representative Rick Larsen

Dear Senators and Representatives:

We are writing to express our support for the recent letter sent to your offices by community organizations in the Olympic Peninsula and Whatcom and Skagit Counties regarding discriminatory actions by the U.S. Border Patrol. We join in their call for you and your offices to take concrete actions to address the concerns of community members in those regions.

In the letter dated August 25, 2011, community leaders outlined the troubling actions they are seeing in their regions: U.S. Border Patrol agents engaging in pre-textual stops of Latino individuals; Border Patrol agents purporting to serve as interpreters in routine law enforcement matters but triggering immigration enforcement actions instead; and local law enforcement agents triggering immigration enforcement by Border Patrol without justification. We share the concerns raised by the community leaders in their letter and we are particularly troubled by the fact that the kind of aggressive enforcement activities we are seeing in our state appear to be wholly inconsistent with the Administration's stated priorities regarding immigration enforcement. We also note that press coverage of an incident in Port Angeles earlier this month suggests that the Border Patrol is engaging in racial profiling of not only Latinos but other people of color.<sup>1</sup> We urge you to heed the call of the community leaders in the August 25 letter to raise these concerns with the leadership of the Department of Homeland Security.

We appreciate your continued engagement on these issues. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. You may reach the signatories through Jorge L.

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<sup>1</sup> According to a report in the Peninsula Daily News, a Korean man was detained by the Border Patrol at a farmers' market in Port Angeles on September 3. The article notes that no one else at market was questioned about immigration status and quotes one community member as saying: "It's so clearly a case of racial profiling." See Border Patrol Arrest at Farmers Market Stuns Bystanders, *Peninsula Daily News*, September 4, 2011 (available at <http://www.peninsuladailynews.com/article/20110904/NEWS/309049990>).

Barón, Executive Director, Northwest Immigrant Rights Project at (206) 957-8609 or via email at [jorge@nwirp.org](mailto:jorge@nwirp.org).

Sincerely,

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Executive Director  
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Pramila Jayapal  
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