

KEN SALAZAR
COLORADO



United States Senate
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20510 - 3903

April 17, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
President of the United States
Washington, DC

Dear Mr. President:

I write to urge you to redouble your efforts to find a bipartisan, effective and practical solution to our nation's immigration problems by working with the Senate to pass comprehensive immigration reform.

While the Senate came close to acting on a proposal earlier this month, we were unable to prevent a small, vocal minority more interested in passing incomplete and unworkable solutions. I fear that without your Presidential leadership, the Senate will be unable to get back on course to consider comprehensive immigration reform legislation.

As the former Governor of Texas, I know you are well acquainted with challenges so many American communities are facing because of the federal government's inability to reform our immigration laws. In Colorado, I have met several times with leaders from business, agriculture, labor, civil rights, and faith communities. They have urged us to work in a bi-partisan manner to enact sensible solutions to our immigration challenges. Their message has been simple and clear: we need reform now.

I share your belief that we can have rational, important immigration policy that's based upon law and reflects our deep desire to be a compassionate and decent nation. I am committed to working with you, and with the Senate Republican and Democratic leadership, to make immigration reform a reality.

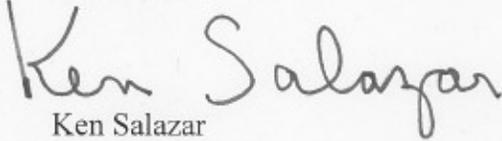
I worked with a bi-partisan group of Senators committed to enacting comprehensive immigration reform that is tough, fair, and practical. Building on the excellent work of the Senate Judiciary Committee, our discussions and negotiations made real progress. While I was very disappointed we were unable to break the impasse, I was encouraged by the number of Senators truly committed to immigration reform. It is not too late to seize this opportunity to enact real reform.

Because resolving our broken immigration laws is a critical to strengthening our national security, your leadership is critical to ensuring the Senate completes the critical task of immigration reform. While we still have not developed the precise formula for change, I know

that the vast majority of the Senate believes that we cannot continue to have porous borders, lax enforcement and millions of immigrants living in the shadows.

I pledge to work with you to ensure that the Senate returns to debating immigration reform legislation as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ken Salazar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style. The first name "Ken" is written in a smaller, more compact script, while "Salazar" is written in a larger, more expansive script with a prominent loop at the end of the "z".

Ken Salazar