

Federal Issues – Advocacy Letters

- **Comprehensive Immigration Reform**
- **Water Resources Development Act**
- **Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Program**
- **Elder Protection and Abuse Prevention Act**
- **Older Americans Act (OAA)**

SALUD CARBAJAL

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JANET WOLF

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County Administration Building

105 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA 93101

Telephone: (805) 568-2190

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 13, 2013

The Honorable Robert Goodlatte, Chairman
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform. Last spring, the Board voted 4-0 in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by the National Association of Counties' (NACo). This framework includes the following:

- Secure our borders;
- Include a national strategy for coordination among federal, state, local and tribal authorities;
- Establish a sensible and orderly guest worker program;
- Impose no unfunded mandates on state and local governments;
- Include no mandates on counties to enforce immigration laws;
- Preserve the eligibility of legal non-citizens for federal-funded health benefits and provide a sustainable funding stream to counties for their cost of providing health services to legal non-citizens who are denied federal-funded health benefits;
- Establish an earned path to citizenship that includes registering, background checks, demonstrating employment, learning English and civics, and paying back taxes and fees that may be required;
- Improve and simplify the current legal immigration system; and,
- Provide green cards for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics students who have received a graduate degree from American universities.

Dealing with the challenges associated with our nation's broken immigration system has been an ongoing issue that has impacted all levels of our government, multiple sectors of the economy, wage-earners, taxpayers, and families across our country. In Santa Barbara County, as in many other regions, we have seen the impacts on our communities, especially in the agriculture industry that makes up a major portion of our local economy. On behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors, I respectfully urge you to support Comprehensive Immigration Reform that includes these criteria, and to expedite action on appropriate legislation this fall before the opportunity is lost.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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September 13, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
Office of the Speaker of the House of Representatives
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232 Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-6501

Dear Mr. Speaker:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform. Last spring, the Board voted 4-0 in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by the National Association of Counties' (NACo). This framework includes the following:

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 13, 2013

The Honorable John Conyers
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on the Judiciary
U.S. House of Representatives
2142 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Conyers:

I am writing to reiterate the support of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for comprehensive immigration reform. Last spring, the Board voted 4-0 in support of the policy framework for Comprehensive Immigration Reform adopted by the National Association of Counties' (NACo). This framework includes the following:

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Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

September 16, 2013

The Honorable Lois Capps
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Lois:

Enclosed for your information are letters I have sent to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman Shuster and Ranking Minority Member Rahall in support of Water Resources Development Act reauthorization legislation.

I urge you to continue to work with the Committee as it drafts H.R. 3080, the *Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2013 (WRRDA 2013)*, with particular attention to the following priorities:

- Continue your support for efforts such as Section 124 of the bill to direct that the Army Corps' Vegetation Management Policy be reviewed and revised to take into consideration regional characteristics and habitat for species of concern.
- Support Sections 107, 108 and 114 to establish a Public-Private Partnership Pilot Program and increase opportunities for non-Federal interests to support or expedite projects. These innovative efforts could be important for completion of projects such as the Lower Mission Creek flood control project.
- Oppose Section 301 and Section 303, would deauthorize projects simply because they have not been funded. The focus should be on project merits, not funding stream. In the case of the Lower Mission Creek project, substantial work and financial investment have been made and the project should not be summarily deauthorized simply because more recent funding has not been available.
- Ensure that any National Levee Safety Program is focused on safety and maximized flexibility to avoid counter-productive bureaucracy.

Thank you for your attention to these priorities as you develop WRRDA 2013 legislation.

Sincerely,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative

TPW:dwg

Enclosure

SALUD CARBAJAL

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COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA

October 1, 2013

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Minority Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
United States Senate
SH-833 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Alexander:

I am writing on behalf of the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors to reiterate their Board's support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

The Act allows the County to provide a wide range of critical services to its elderly population. It provides funds for programs to support meals-on-wheels, help to prevent elder abuse and exploitation, counsel seniors on their rights, coordinate legal services for those who can not afford representation, and support telephone hotlines. The County's phenomenal population growth over the last two decades is projected to continue and as a result, the demand for senior-related services will increase.

The County supports the reauthorization and expansion of the following programs under OAA:

- Elderly Nutrition Program
- Family Caregiver Programs (Title III E)
- Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (Title III B)

Furthermore the County supports increasing local flexibility to allow local AAAs to provide more customized support, increased authorization levels, strengthening the Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman Program.

Please support the reauthorization of the OAA and support efforts to maintain local control to coordinate OAA services for older Americans.

Sincerely yours,

Thomas P. Walters
Washington Representative