



# Pinal County Sheriff's Office

July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2013

The Honorable Bob Goodlatte, Chairman, House Judiciary Committee  
U.S. Congressman  
2309 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Trey Gowdy, Chairman House Subcommittee on Immigration  
U.S. Congressman  
1404 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: *Letter of Support for SAFE Act*

Dear Chairman Goodlatte and Chairman Gowdy,

On Thursday, June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2013 I had the privilege of testifying before the Committee on the Judiciary in support of H.R. 2278, "*Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act*" (The SAFE Act), which was created by Congressman Gowdy.

H.R. 2278 "*Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act*" is the best plan I have seen presented to protect America. The bill, if approved, will give law enforcement agencies across the United States clear direction so immigration enforcement can be consistent throughout all communities.

On a daily basis in Pinal County, law enforcement and citizens are forced to live with the results of an unsecured border. H.R. 2278 the "*Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act*" will give our deputies and law enforcement members across the nation, the authority they need to arrest and detain those involved with drug and human trafficking who come freely through our open border. The citizens of Pinal County have elected and given me their sacred trust to ensure they are safe. Almost daily, deputies of my office are involved in vehicle pursuits with cartel members smuggling drugs or humans. We have had executions, warnings from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security that the cartels members from Mexico were going to be sending assassins to Pinal County to execute other cartel members, we have had cartels send "*Rip Crews*" who have been involved in gun battles with other cartel members, "*Rip Crews*" have conducted traffic stops on individuals and committed robberies, we have seen homicides, home invasions, kidnappings, shootings, sexual assaults, burglaries and thefts. Deputies have confronted armed individuals both in the desert and in vehicles and have been involved in shootings and physical confrontations.

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On Sunday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013 I met with my fellow Sheriff's who represent the "*Western States Sheriff's Association.*" The association represents the elected Sheriff's of Arizona, California, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming.

While at the meeting, I was honored to be nominated and later unanimously confirmed by fellow elected sheriffs' as their spokesperson on issues related to immigration and border security.

As a group we spoke collectively about the "*Gang of Eight*" legislation and the "*SAFE Act.*" The "*Gang of Eight*" plan was constructed without any input from law enforcement and it will undoubtedly fail as it lacks in border security and interior enforcement, both of which are needed to protect our citizens.

We urge this committee to give your full support to H.R. 2278 the "*Strengthen and Fortify Enforcement Act*" as it will give law enforcement and communities the power we need to keep our citizens safe. This legislation also makes it more difficult for terrorists and other aliens who pose national security concerns to enter and remain in the United States, protects the American public by facilitating the removal of criminal aliens, improves our nation's first line of defense - the visa issuance process, and provides additional assistance to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers in carrying out their jobs of enforcing Federal immigration laws.

We believe that there are a sufficient number of Border Patrol Agents currently on the border. The real question is how many ICE Agents will need to be trained and put in place to handle the sheer volume of Criminal Aliens currently present in the United States. The issue being concealed by the press and Congress is the clear and present danger criminal aliens pose to the American people. Anything resembling amnesty or a path to citizenship at this point in time will ensure further endangerment of the American family unit, which is the foundation of American society, by enabling the following type of aliens to remain in the United States.

Real border security must begin with effective interior enforcement in every jurisdiction in all fifty states. Achieving real border security requires aggressive expansion of 287(g) authority, closing down sanctuary cities, fair and universal employer sanctions and denial of other benefits such as welfare, public housing, and granting of identification that would enable the criminal element to continue concealing their presence in our communities to include driver's licenses.

Respectfully,



Paul Babeu, Sheriff  
Western States Sheriff's Association