

March 11th, 2008

The Honorable Sam Farr
United States Congress
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Representative Farr:

On behalf of the 26,000 members of the Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (F.L.E.O.A.), including the 3,397 members from Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), I take great exception to your reference to Nazi Germany's Gestapo to describe the enforcement tactics ICE Special Agents. During the February 26th, 2008, House Appropriations Subcommittee hearing, you shamefully denounced the commendable work of ICE Special Agents, and attempted to minimize their proud mission by describing their role as only deporting incarcerated illegal aliens.

Representative Farr, while you ridiculed the honorable work of ICE Special Agents who effectively identify and apprehend large groups of **illegal** aliens, you conveniently overlooked the simple fact that **illegal** aliens do not voluntarily surrender themselves to local jails. Instead, the brave men and women of ICE take on a great deal of risk while engaging in work-site enforcement operations to ensure our communities are not saturated with **illegal** aliens. Special Agents, by virtue of their title, are criminal investigators whose function is to investigate and enforce violations of federal criminal statutes. Their primary mission is not to simply "clear jails" as your legislative assistant, Ms. McKinney, asserted to one of our members.

Ms McKinney attempted to explain your comments by writing that Rep. Farr, during his conversation with Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security Julie Myers, was trying "to understand the agency's penchant for street raids and neighborhood sweeps versus its mission to clear jails of incarcerated illegal aliens." Sir, the proactive measures taken by ICE Special Agents should not be characterized as a "penchant" for doing something that they are authorized to do. Special Agents do not simply pursue **illegal** aliens based on a whim. It is an honorable mission with a great

deal of risk, and they do a commendable job carrying it out.

Ms. McKinney further attempts to validate your reference to Gestapo tactics by writing that you were simply passing along the perception of local law enforcement. Representative Farr, you are a Congressman and not simply a conduit for hearsay. Perhaps you should have these local law enforcement sources provide testimony before the committee so the record can be made clear. Please understand that we cannot effectively secure our homeland by sending Hallmark cards to **illegal** aliens asking them to surrender and self-deport.

Assistant Secretary Myers and her dedicated team of Special Agents need the appropriate level of funding to carry out their formidable mission. We hope you will refrain from passing along any additional perceptions that are disparaging to the dedicated Special Agents of ICE.

Sincerely,

Art Gordon
National President