

Dear Republican Members of Congress,

As Republicans, we believe the new Republican majority control of both houses of Congress provides an opportunity to be the problem-solver our country needs. Specifically, there is an opportunity for Congressional Republicans to be the architects of reform that will reflect our priorities and genuinely addresses our country's needs.

We implore you to reform our immigration system so that it discourages the rising tide of illegal immigration, while fixing the unnecessary obstacles that send talented individuals elsewhere and make it harder for American companies to compete, grow, and create jobs for American workers. We must be the Party that celebrates hard work and risk taking. Welcoming immigrants who want to come here and contribute to our economy and our society is an important piece of that.

Simply put, our immigration system is in shambles. There is a humanitarian crisis at our border that neither the President nor Congress has done anything to adequately address. Meanwhile arbitrary and antiquated visa laws wreak havoc on our economy and threaten our competitive advantage in a global marketplace.

Due to Washington's inaction, businesses in key growth industries are unable to hire the workers they need to expand and compete in a global marketplace. As demand for local produce goes up, American production goes down because our farmers don't have the workers they need to harvest, leaving us to import more fruits and vegetables. We end up growing someone else's agriculture sector, when we could be growing ours. Entrepreneurs who want to start businesses here and hire American workers are turned away. And when we say no, China, Germany, Australia, and many others say yes. In a global economy, that makes us weaker not stronger. We need to be exporting goods, not talent.

Immigration reform is not only an economic imperative. It's also a political imperative. Good policy is good politics. Inaction on this issue is not good policy. If the only legislation our Party has recently advanced on immigration is viewed as anti-immigration or not immigrant-friendly, we stand to alienate troves of voters who otherwise agree with our principles. Republicans in Congress need to show that we can lead on tough issues and demonstrate appeal to broad sections of Americans.

Failure to fix our immigration system is failure to adapt to the new market, failure to address a security problem that goes beyond unaccompanied minors, and failure to plan for the future of our Party. Addressing our border security and the current crisis should be the beginning of broader reform, but it cannot be the end.

You have the opportunity to lead a legislative effort. Doing so will transform this country – and this Party – for the better. We urge you to take this opportunity.

Sincerely,

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*10th United States Secretary of Energy*

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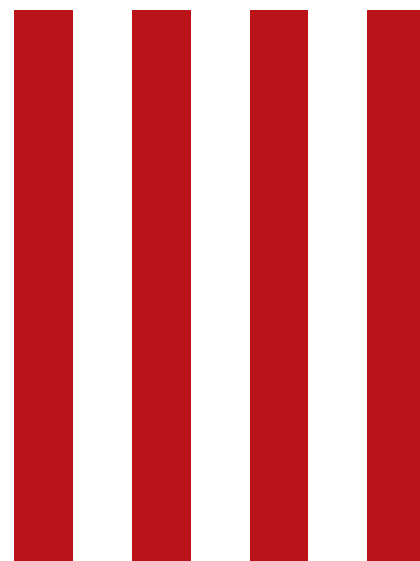
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Paid for by Republicans for Immigration Reform.



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