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June 25, 2010

Mr. Eric Holder, Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

SUBJECT: Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board's Support for Comprehensive Federal Immigration Reform and Opposition to Arizona's SB 1070

Dear Mr. Holder:

At their June 24, 2010 meeting, the Council of Fresno County Governments Policy Board took a formal vote in support of comprehensive federal immigration reform and opposing the state of Arizona's recently enacted SB 1070. This decision came after lengthy and thoughtful debate by the Board on the issue of immigration reform, reflecting the diversity of opinion on the issue.

Historically, ethnic diversity is and has been one of the hallmarks of Fresno County. Fresno County is demographically one of the nation's most ethnically diverse areas. In 2010 over 66% of our population was classified as non-white, and that number is forecast to grow to almost 74% by 2025. Blending this generous mixture of people and cultures has always been one of our region's greatest strengths. Going further, as the number one agricultural region in the world, the history of farming in Fresno County and the San Joaquin Valley as a whole is linked closely with immigrants, who for the past 100 plus years have come here from around the world to establish family farming operations and enjoy the opportunities that our region provides them. In fact, 27% of Fresno County's population growth in the past decade has been due to foreign immigration. With over \$5 billion dollars in annual production, Fresno County's agriculture industry relies on and operates with largely immigrant labor to harvest nature's precious bounty. With the above being stated, the Policy Board feels strongly that the issue of immigration reform needs to be addressed "*comprehensively*" at the federal level to ensure that all individuals are treated uniformly with respect and dignity.

In addition to their support for comprehensive federal immigration reform, the Policy Board is concerned that Arizona's recently enacted SB 1070 has a number of flaws including the potential to lead to unintended racial profiling and possible civil rights violations because the bill does not list the "characteristics" officers will be looking for to determine reasonable suspicion.

In closing, thank you in advance for your consideration of our position on immigration as it relates to the need for comprehensive federal immigration reform and our opposition to SB 1070. If you have questions or seek further clarification of our position, please feel free to call our Executive Director, Tony Boren at 559- 233-4148 ext. 204.

Sincerely,

Trinidad Rodriguez, Chairman
Council of Fresno County Governments

Member Agencies: The cities of Clovis, Coalinga, Firebaugh, Fowler, Fresno, Huron, Kerman, Kingsburg, Mendota, Orange Cove, Parlier, Reedley, San Joaquin, Sanger, Selma & Fresno County