



108th Congress

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# Congressional Black Caucus *of the United States Congress*

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August 1, 2003

Ms. Maria Elena Durazo  
National Chairwoman  
Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride  
1219 28<sup>th</sup> Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20007

Dear Chairwoman Durazo:

The Civil Rights Movement of the 1950's and 1960's was a time of great courage and risk in the African - American fight for justice. Exposing the human cost of racial discrimination while demanding that America live up to its highest ideals required persistence, sacrifice and unity. While many lives were lost, many victories were won. Yet, the struggle to extend civil and human rights to all who live and work in America is still unfinished.

Today, our nation's immigration system is falling short of America's commitment to human dignity and economic freedom. Millions of hard-working immigrants contribute to our democracy, our economy, and our society every day. However, these same immigrants are not afforded the legal right to reside in America, thereby relegating them to second-class status. Our immigration system contributes to and perpetuates this stratification and it must change!

The Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride, inspired by the Freedom Rides of 1961, will expose the injustices and inequities of America's immigration policy. The Ride will call for a new policy that provides for legalization; a clear path to citizenship; family reunification; equal rights on the job; and civil liberties for all.

The Congressional Black Caucus strongly endorses and supports the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride and its goals. We look forward to meeting the new Freedom Riders from all over America when they reach Washington, D.C. on October 1, 2003. We also look forward to working side-by-side with them to achieve real reform of our immigration policy.

Sincerely,

Elijah E. Cummings  
Chair, CBC