

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 2, 2003

Maria Elena Durazo
National Chairwoman
Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride
1219 28th Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20007

Dear Chairwoman Durazo:

The Freedom Rides of 1961 were key crystallizing events in the American Civil Rights Movement. Drawing inspiration from this dramatic movement in American history, and in the history of the struggle for human and civil rights, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride will bring immigrant workers and their allies from all across the nation to Washington, DC, where they will meet with Members of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus and other Members of Congress to discuss our nation's immigration policy.

This seminal event will bring national attention to the plight of immigrant workers by addressing their needs and giving faces to this powerful movement. The tragic events of September 11, 2001 have put on hold the political momentum for immigration reform and rights, thus elevating tensions that have been building for some time in the United States.

Today, a new momentum has made immigrants the targets of some of the most repressive legislation and executive policy in recent memory: government raids on workplaces and homes, punitive detention for protracted periods of time, and, often, the abrupt loss of employment. Such legislation and policies cause a constant fear of deportation and the threat of separation from family. Many of these feelings are now a part of everyday life for immigrants in the United States.

When it reaches our nation's capital on October 1st, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride will be carrying the message of immigrant rights proudly across the country. The march will focus attention on four essential requirements of a new immigration policy:

- Legalization and a "Road to Citizenship" for all immigrant workers in this country;
- The right of immigrant workers to re-unite their families;
- Protecting the rights of immigrants in the workplace; and
- Civil rights and civil liberties for all.

On behalf of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus (CAPAC), we strongly endorse and support the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride and its goals. As a caucus, it is our responsibility to improve and protect our communities and take this message back to our districts. We are proud to welcome the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride to Washington, DC!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "David Wu", with a large, stylized loop at the end.

David Wu
Chair
CAPAC

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Michael M. Honda", in a cursive style.

Mike Honda
Vice Chair
CAPAC