

# Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 24, 2003

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

Dear Chairwoman Durazo:

The Freedom Rides of 1961 were one of the most dramatic and inspiring episodes of the Civil Rights movement. People of conscience from across the nation risked their lives and safety to directly confront segregation and racism. Looking back today, we can see both the successes of the Civil Rights movement and the ways in which the dream of true equality for all remains unfulfilled.

Martin Luther King's last great campaign was on behalf of poor people, in solidarity with janitors demanding justice and dignity. Today, many workers of all races are still denied their basic human rights to organize and to be treated with respect. Millions of immigrant workers are especially vulnerable to abuses in the workplace and have no road to citizenship even as they make significant, valuable contributions to building our economy and communities.

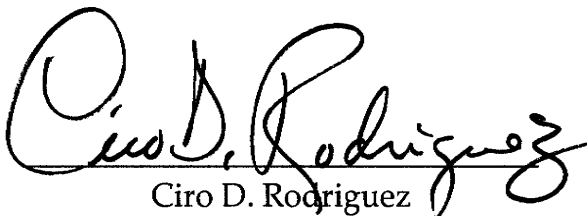
What is needed today is a renewed civil rights movement that addresses the struggles of immigrant workers. We believe the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride is an inspiring example of the continuity of the movement for justice and equality for all. We support the Immigrant Worker Freedom Ride and the four principles it is centered on:

- 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.

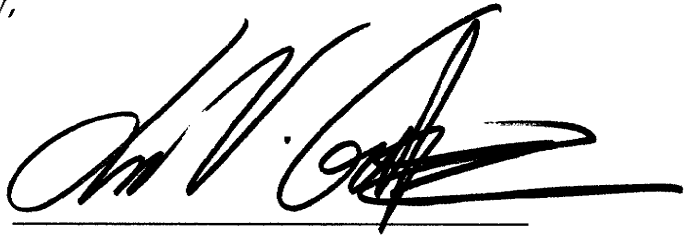
These are essential elements for a just and comprehensive reform of immigration policy, and they are consistent with the goals and principles of the Congressional Hispanic Caucus.

We will take the Freedom Ride's message home to our constituents and work to increase understanding of this new civil rights movement for immigrants. We look forward to the start of the Freedom Ride and welcoming you all upon your triumphant arrival here in Washington, D.C.

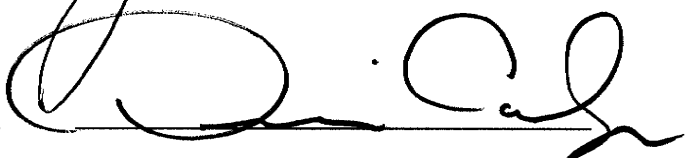
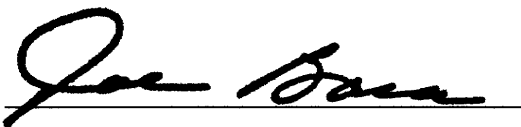
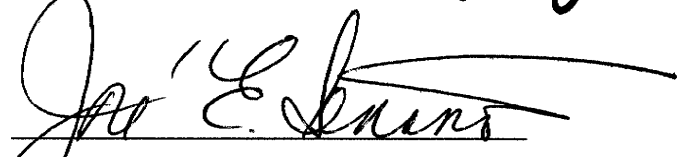
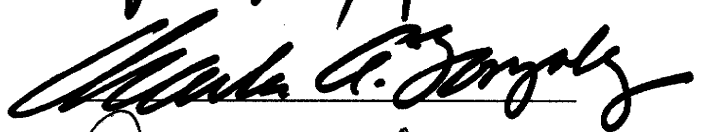
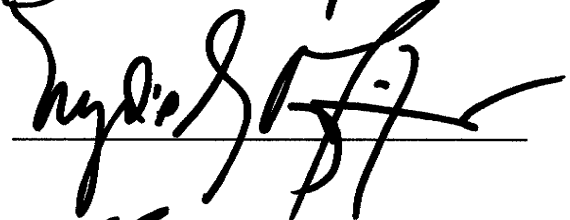
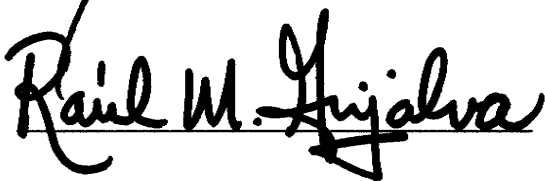
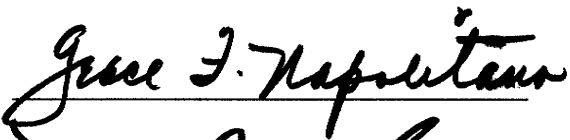
Sincerely,



Ciro D. Rodriguez  
Chairman, Congressional Hispanic  
Caucus



Luis V. Gutierrez  
Chairman, Democratic Immigration  
Task Force



Louella Sanchez

Linda F. Sanchez

Ed M. V. /

Robert Menendez

Ed Pastor

John D. /