

MEDIA ADVISORY

Sunday, July 28, 2006

Contact Information

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Local Leaders Seek Voice in the Immigration and Border Security Debate

(Yuma, Arizona) A diverse group of Yuma County leaders representing a cross-section of business, religious, and service organizations are calling on Congress to respect the integrity of local communities. We ask that Congress live up to the purpose of fact-finding field hearings on immigration and border security and seek to involve local input on how to address comprehensive immigration reform.

The House Committee on Armed Services will hold a hearing on Wednesday, August 2nd at the Marine Corps Air Station at 1:00 pm in Yuma, Arizona. The hearing will be about the National Guard troops on the border, crossing issues affecting training at Yuma Air Station, the SW border fence, border security measures in San Diego shifting flow of immigrants to Arizona and the impact on the Yuma Air Station. All of these issues directly impact us. We will be there.

In response to the proposed hearing, we will hold a Press Conference to ask Congress to take the issues and concerns of Yuma County residents into consideration as a foundation for real immigration reform and border security. We have submitted letters to all the Congressional Leaders that will be at the hearing asking them to allow testimony from Yuma County to speak.

Leaders of the Yuma business community, including the agriculture industry, have been calling on Congress to act on comprehensive immigration reform.

“I can’t recall a Congressional Hearing happening in Yuma County within the last fifty years, if at all,” says Monsignor Richard O’Keeffe, Pastor of Immaculate Conception Catholic Church. It would be tragic for our democracy if we are not heard.

Msgr. O’Keeffe calls upon Congress to read these letters and invite the local communities to address them at the hearings. He reminds us of the biblical teaching in the Gospel of Luke 4:24, where Jesus says, “Truly I tell you, no prophet is accepted in the prophet’s hometown.” O’Keeffe calls on Congress to respect the voice of the people who live along the border.

WHAT: PRESS CONFERENCE on Local Input on Immigration Hearings

WHEN: Monday, July 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE: Yuma County Library

350 S. 3rd Avenue, Yuma

WHO: Yuma County Interfaith, Community Organizations and Business Leaders