

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

May 23, 2006

The Honorable George W. Bush
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Bush:

Last week over my objection the Senate adopted an amendment to the comprehensive immigration bill that seeks to place restrictions on the Government and its communications in languages other than English. I was extremely disappointed that your Administration did not speak out against the divisive amendment and help us work to defeat it.

Attorney General Gonzales said after the fact that you have "never been supportive of English only or English as the official language." The Attorney General indicated over the weekend that his reading of the Inhofe amendment "would not have an effect on any existing rights, currently provided under federal law." I note that you continue to use Spanish on the official White House website, indeed you include a translation into Spanish of the radio address you gave last Saturday on immigration.

I write to ask whether you intend to continue to adhere to Executive Order 13166 if the Inhofe amendment is enacted into law. This Executive Order was adopted by President Clinton in August 2000 to improve access to federal programs and activities. In 2002, your Assistant Attorney General for Civil Right reaffirmed support for the Executive Order and indicated that your "Administration does not plan to repeal Executive Order 13166." What would be the effect, if any, on Executive Order 13166 and its implementation if the Inhofe language adopted by the Senate were to become law?

Respectfully,



PATRICK LEAHY
United States Senator



KEN SALAZAR
United States Senator

cc: Hon. Alberto Gonzales
Hon. Wan Kim