

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

September 28, 2007

Diputado Isidro Pedraza Chavez
Presidente, Seguimiento a los Fondos Aportados por los Trabajadores Mexicanos
Braceros
Congreso de la Union de Mexico
Avenida Congreso de la Union N. 66, Colonia El Parque
Del. Venustiano Carranza, C.P. 15969
Mexico, D.F., MEXICO

Dear Diputado Pedraza Chavez:

It has come to our attention the concerns and various difficulties that former participants of the Bracero Program are encountering in their efforts to receive financial compensation pursuant to a law enacted in the Mexican Congress on December 7, 2005 (Fideicomiso 2106). We are requesting that your committee on foreign nationals and migrant workers look into this concern further in order to carry out the enacted law and to facilitate the overdue payment the former Braceros.

These former workers are now elderly men who are simply seeking the monies they earned while working in the United States between 1942 and 1964. As you are well aware, 10% of their weekly paycheck was deposited into a bank account in Mexico as an incentive for them to return home. While most Braceros were paid after returning to Mexico, a great number of them never received payment of these funds.

As you know, in an effort to rectify the problem the Mexican Government enacted Fideicomiso 2106 to provide reimbursement monies for those that could provide evidence of their participation in the Bracero Program. Braceros that now make their home in the United States lack clarification as to how and where they can provide such evidence to be included in this Official Bracero Registry. Furthermore, some former Braceros residing in the United States who traveled to Mexico to provide such information never received confirmation of their names being added to the Registry and remain in doubt as to whether or not they will ever be compensated.

It is our understanding that your Supreme Court recently released a decision as to the implementation of this law, finding that many eligible Braceros, in Mexico and the United States, did not receive their compensation. It is also our understanding that payments under Fideicomiso 2106 have been stopped since May 2007, until there is direction from the Mexican Congress on how to comply with the ruling issued by the Supreme Court.

This problem affects a number of our constituents, since over 20,000 former Braceros reside throughout the United States with high concentrations of former Braceros residing in California, Texas, Arizona, Oregon, Washington, and Illinois.

We respectfully ask that you look into this matter further and assist former Braceros with their efforts to obtain their due recognition and most importantly,

compensation for their work while in the Program. In addition, we ask that the Mexican Consular Offices within the United States take an active role in order to facilitate the process. We appreciate your consideration of our request, and look forward to your quick reply.

Sincerely,

Bill

Art R.

Myrtle H. Wang

Samantha D. Ortiz

José E. Suarez

Hilda L. Alon

John J. Salazar

Charles A. Fry

James Beers

Raúl M. Grijalva

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