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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1203

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CHAIRMAN
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Honorable Patrick Leahy
Senate Judiciary Committee
224 Dirksen Senate Office Building

Dear Mr. Chairman:

I write to request that the Senate Judiciary Committee review the matter of Ignacio Ramos and Jose Alonso Compean, former Border Patrol agents who are in prison today for their handling of a confrontation with Osbaldo Aldrete-Davila in February, 2005.

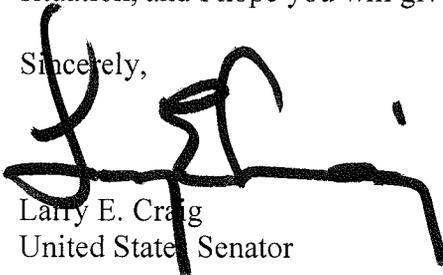
As you know, this case has provoked national outrage and a drive for presidential pardons. Many Idahoans are angry that U.S. authorities immunized a drug-running illegal alien in order to obtain evidence against men engaged in a critical, highly dangerous law enforcement mission, and they believe the conviction of these agents by a Texas jury was a miscarriage of justice. Additionally, they are worried about the message this episode sends to members of the Border Patrol and other federal law enforcement agents.

For their part, federal prosecutors are adamant that the media and grassroots groups have circulated a false version of the facts, and consequently, the American public has misunderstood this case and its outcome. They maintain these former agents used illegal and excessive force against an unarmed suspect and attempted to cover up their misconduct, tampering with evidence and lying about their actions.

You and I confronted similar issues years ago, when the Senate Judiciary Committee panel led by you and Senator Specter examined the events that famously occurred at Ruby Ridge, Idaho. Those hearings helped resolve many of my constituents' concerns, and following the release of our unanimous, bipartisan report, changes were made in the FBI's rules of engagement.

Similarly, today, the confidence of the American people has been shaken by what they have heard about the Ramos and Compean convictions. If these men were improperly targeted and convicted, the perception of justice will suffer and the effectiveness of law enforcement will be undermined. It would be invaluable for the Senate Judiciary Committee to bring clarity to this situation, and I hope you will give careful consideration to this request for oversight.

Sincerely,



Larry E. Craig
United States Senator

cc: Honorable Arlen Specter

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