

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2018

David Leach
Chief Executive Officer
Greyhound Lines Inc.
350 North St. Paul Street
Dallas, TX 75201

Dear Mr. Leach:

We write today to express our concerns over repeated, widespread immigration raids on Greyhound buses under the guise of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) “transportation checks” taking place at locations other than ports of entry or lawful checkpoints. It is our understanding that Greyhound allows CBP agents to board its buses without a warrant or probable cause in order to ask customers about their citizenship. As Members of Congress, we have a stake in Greyhound’s policies and practices, as Greyhound has over 3,800 destinations across North America and serves millions of customers per year. Greyhound’s actions affect our constituents, and we contend that, by granting consent to CBP agents to board buses to inquire about immigration status, Greyhound exposes its passengers to frequent violations of their constitutional rights to be free from warrantless searches and seizures, racial profiling, and harassment.

The American Civil Liberties Union has documented CBP agents boarding Greyhound buses across the nation, spanning coast to coast, with resulting detentions and deportations.¹ We consider this behavior unacceptable, and believe it is within your power to change it.

Title 8 of the U.S. Code outlines the powers immigration officers have, including CBP agents, to conduct warrantless searches.² The statute reads in part that officers can, within a reasonable distance from the border, “board and search for aliens” on “any railway car, aircraft, conveyance, or vehicle.”³ But as with any law conferring enforcement authority, the statute authorizes agents to conduct such activities only while complying with the Constitution. Congress has not approved, nor could it, a violation of the Constitution as it has been interpreted by the Supreme Court regarding this very statute.⁴ Therefore, it is our understanding that CBP must have either probable cause or be given Greyhound’s consent to board and search for immigration infractions.

According to Greyhound’s website, the company prides itself on “providing safe, enjoyable and affordable travel to nearly 18 million passengers each year in the United States and Canada.”⁵ We do not see how this mission comports with authorizing dragnet CBP searches of Greyhound’s passengers.

¹ <https://www.aclu-wa.org/docs/aclu-letter-greyhound-bus>

² 8 U.S.C. § 1357

³ 8 U.S.C. § 1357(a)(3)

⁴ *Almeida-Sanchez v. United States*, 413 U.S. 266 (1973)

⁵ <https://www.greyhound.com/en/about>

Will you change this practice and refuse CBP agents permission to board buses, outside a port of entry or lawful checkpoint, without probable cause?

Thank you for your consideration. We await your response and hope you will commit to a fair application of the law for all of your customers.

Sincerely,



Joaquin Castro
First Vice Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



Michelle Lujan Grisham
Chair
Congressional Hispanic Caucus



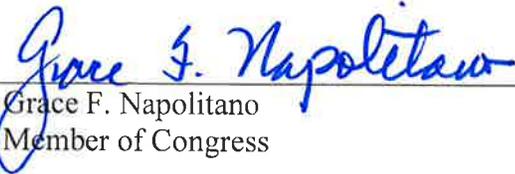
Cedric L. Richmond
Chair
Congressional Black Caucus



Judy Chu
Chair
Congressional Asian Pacific American
Caucus



Albio Sires
Member of Congress



Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Barbara Lee
Member of Congress



Gwen Moore
Member of Congress



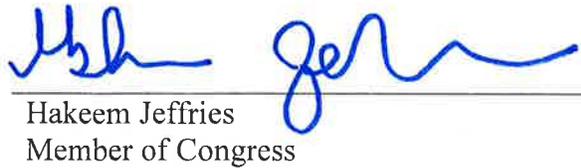
Darren Soto
Member of Congress



Luis Gutiérrez
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress



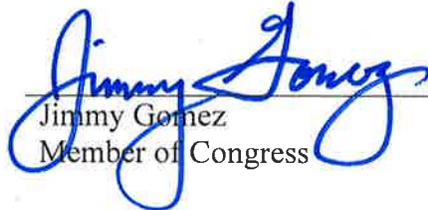
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



Jimmy Gomez
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress



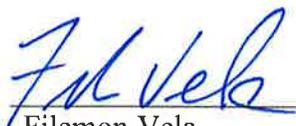
Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress



Grace Meng
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress