

From: mail.relay@mailmanager.net [mailto:mail.relay@mailmanager.net] **On Behalf Of** Mishwa Lee

Sent: Thursday, March 29, 2007 8:30 PM

To: Emilio Gonzalez

Subject: Don't raise the cost of citizenship! Docket# USCIS-2006-0044

Mishwa Lee
3 Ardath Ct.
San Francisco, CA 94124-4407

March 29, 2007

Emilio Gonzalez
USCIS Director

Dear Emilio Gonzalez:

All of us are immigrants unless we can trace our heritage directly to the indigenous peoples of what is now the U.S. The rest of us benefited from access to lands stolen from indigenous peoples, or theft of the resources of their lands, or money made from slavery or exploited workers. It is time to grant full citizenship to those who are applying and have been here leading lives in which they contribute to our communities and well being. IN the meantime, the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services plans to raise the costs of applying for American citizenship beyond the reach of many recent immigrants.

During the past 12 years, the application costs have risen 400 percent. USCIS has proposed raising the cost of a green card from \$325 to \$905, a citizenship application from \$330 to \$595 and fingerprinting from \$70 to \$80.

USCIS is one of the few government agencies that operates primarily on user fees, yet it plans to put an additional burden on people already working as hard as possible to become lawful U.S. citizens. Naturalization for a family of four would rise to \$2,430.

Congress should appropriate the funds necessary to allow thousands of hard-working immigrants to gain citizenship at a cost they can afford and USCIS should absolutely not enact these dramatic increases.

Sincerely,

Mishwa Lee

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