

20 Crowley St

Lowell, MA 0185...

February 13, 2007

Director of Regulatory Management Division,  
U.S. **Citizenship and Immigration Services**  
Department of Homeland Security,  
111 Massachusetts Avenue, NW.  
3rd Floor, Washington, DC 20529.

Ref: DHS Docket No. USCIS-2006-0044: **Adjustment of the Immigration  
and Naturalization Benefit Application and Petition Fee Schedule.**

Dear Director:

I am most concerned about a proposed rule by the Citizenship and Immigration Service, the division of the Department of Homeland Security, to nearly double the cost of becoming an U.S. citizen and drastically raise the cost of becoming a legal permanent resident. According to the articles by the Associate Press issued on January 31, 2007, the proposal seeks to increase an application fee for citizenship from \$330 to \$595 and the fee for becoming a legal permanent resident from \$325 to \$905.

The proposed rule will disproportionately affect my community and my family members. A City of Lowell, Massachusetts is home to the second-largest community of Cambodian refugees in the United States with an estimate of 35,000 people, majority of them are Cambodians. According to recent census data, the per capita income for the Lowell's Cambodians is US\$ 6,259; 42.6 % of them live below the Federal Poverty Level; and only 46% are in the workforce, in contrast to the national average of 65%.

I hope you will seriously consider the impact that the proposed rule would have on my family, my community and my other Southeast Asians living in the Greater Lowell who are seeking to become American citizen or permanent resident.

Sincerely, *Sitha Him*