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July 19, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Charles Johnson
Secretary of Homeland Security
90 K Street, NE
Washington, DC 20002

Mr. Secretary Johnson,

We write to urge you to publicly release the revised ICE guidance regarding the enforcement of immigration law during labor disputes. The publication of updated guidance on "the intersection between immigration law enforcement and labor and employment law enforcement" was one of President Obama's key mandates to the Interagency Working Group for the Consistent Enforcement of Federal Labor, Employment and Immigration Laws and has been a longstanding priority of the advocates who engaged in the Interagency Working Group process.

For two decades, legacy INS and ICE's guidance on the enforcement of immigration law during labor disputes has been available to the public. It is inexcusable that now, in the context of the President's mandate for increased public disclosure of such policies, ICE has decided to make the revised policy guidance secret.

We have participated in good faith in a long, slow process with the Working Group because we know how important it is to achieve concrete outcomes to protect the people who get up and go to work every day. From the beginning, updating and reissuing ICE guidance regarding the enforcement of immigration law during labor disputes has been a key demand because we know just how important this document is to our work on the ground. Making this guidance secret after it has been publicly available for two decades signals that ICE does not want to be held accountable for the protection of workers' rights and undermines the credibility of the entire Working Group process.

We urge you to take immediate steps to rectify this situation and push this important document into the sunlight where it belongs. The only way to prevent unscrupulous parties from misusing immigration enforcement to thwart workers' rights is by having clear and transparent policies to ensure that our labor laws are respected and protected.

The Honorable Jeh Charles Johnson
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Sincerely,

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Jobs With Justice
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National Employment Law Project
National Guestworker Alliance
National Immigration Law Center
National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Southern Poverty Law Center
We Belong Together

Local and Regional:

Allies of Knoxville's Immigrant Neighbors (AKIN)
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Chicago Federation of Labor
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Georgia Latino Alliance for Human Rights
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