

This is the text of a constituent letter sent to me by Congressman Mike Simpson. I don't have a scanner so I had to type it for the time being. I'm posting it because I'm sure it's a boilerplate letter that would be sent to any Idaho resident who expressed concern regarding the subject matter.

May 20, 2008

Dear Vicky,

Thank you for contacting me regarding a number of issues. I appreciate hearing from you and having the opportunity to respond.

First, I want to address your comments regarding rumors about the creation of a "North American Union". There is currently no effort in Congress to create a North American Union or a common currency between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. This rumor may have started as a result of a report published in March 2005 by the Council on foreign Relations (CFR) titled *Building a North American Community*, which recommends the establishment of a North American economic and security community by 2010. The CFR is an independent think tank and has no affiliation with the U.S. government.

Secondly, I want to respond to your comments regarding the so-called "NAFTA Super Highway". Since the introduction of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), many have questioned the possibility of construction a "super-highway" connecting Mexico, the United States, and Canada. In reality, this "super-highway" existed before the ratification of NAFTA in the form of I-35, which runs from the Mexican/Texas border to the Minnesota/Canadian border.

Much of the recent press involving the supposed construction of a "super-highway" has been centered on North America's SuperCorridor Coalition, Inc. This group is a nongovernmental nonprofit agency which actively promotes an increase of trade between the members of NAFTA. This group's efforts to maximize trade between the North American nations are purely private, and they are not affiliated with any government agency.

Lastly, I want to respond to your comments about the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America. As you may be aware, on March 23, 2005 President Bush along with then-President Vincente Fox of Mexico and then-Prime Minister Martin of Canada announced the Security and Prosperity Partnership of North America (SPP) during a joint meeting in Waco, Texas. The SPP is a trilateral agreement between these countries to advance the common security and the common prosperity of the countries by expanding cooperation on immigration, border, and security politics. The SPP does *not* constitute an effort to create a North American Union or preempt U.S. law.

This improved cooperation could potentially be beneficial for the United States. For example, those involved hope this will allow the North American nations to quickly share vital information in times of epidemics or security crisis. Also, this agreement promises to lead to shared energy research, which may allow the U.S. to be independent from foreign oil even sooner than expected. Finally, this agreement will hopefully lead to stronger and more secure borders as the North American nations collaborate to pursue drug smugglers, human traffickers, and other cross border criminals.

Recently, there have been some concerns expressed over whether this cooperative agreement could lead to a deterioration of American sovereignty. While I believe it is worthwhile to explore options of increased security cooperation with our North American neighbors, I will not support programs which would endanger American sovereignty. Rest assured, I will continue to carefully monitor this situation to ensure that America's sovereignty and security is protected.

Once again, thank you for taking the time to write to me with your concerns. The thoughts and opinions of Idahoans are important to me as your Representative in the United States Congress. I also encourage you to visit my website at www.house.gov/simpson to sign up for my weekly e-newsletter and to read more about my views on a variety of issues.

Sincerely,

Mike Simpson
Member of Congress