

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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SENATOR TOM WIENS

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**COLORADO
STATE SENATE**

STATE CAPITOL
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**Senator Wiens calls for face-to-face
meeting
with Mexican consul in Denver**

DENVER – Colorado state Sen. Tom Wiens, R-Castle Rock, renewed his demand that Mexico’s consul general in Denver apologize for criticizing Colorado’s laws, and the senator invited the Mexican official to meet and clear the air over immigration issues. Wiens, who has been demanding greater accountability from Mexico’s government for illegal immigration, wrote Consul General Juan Marcos Gutierrez-Gonzalez Tuesday after he failed in a previous letter to Wiens to respond to Wiens’ earlier call for an apology. A copy of Wiens’ latest letter is attached.

In the letter, Wiens also assailed another Mexican government official’s recent threat to sue the U.S. if our National Guard detains Mexican nationals who cross the border illegally.

“Comments by your government about wishing to work with the United States to resolve the illegal immigration issue between the two nations cannot possibly be sincere,” Wiens wrote. “Your country should be offering to work with the U.S. and with our National Guard, not threatening to sue us.”

Wiens also stated, “Again Mr. Gutierrez, you owe the people of Colorado, the General Assembly, and Colorado’s law enforcement community an immediate and sincere apology.”

Gutierrez set off the controversy earlier this month when he criticized the Colorado General Assembly for enacting Wiens’ Senate Bill 90, which permits state and local law enforcement agencies to cooperate with federal authorities in detaining illegal immigrants. Wiens first pressed his demand for an apology from Gutierrez at that time,

admonishing the foreign official for showing disrespect for U.S. policy and the American democratic process.

“I believe if we sit down and address these issues face-to-face, you will realize the bill that I carried into law is not about racial profiling, as you alleged,” Wiens wrote. “It is about making sure that our law officers are not releasing potentially dangerous illegal aliens back onto our streets. You will agree that is something neither of our countries should be expected to tolerate.”

Wiens offered to meet with the media present or in private, at Gutierrez’s office or at the Capitol.

Senator Tom Wiens, R-Castle Rock, is the caucus chairman. He represents Senate District 4, which includes Lake, Douglas, Teller, El Paso and Park Counties. He serves on the Senate Business, Labor & Technology Committee, and the Senate Transportation Committee. His address during the session is State Capitol, Room 274, 200 East Colfax, Denver CO, 80203.

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**Senate Chamber
State of Colorado
Denver**

SENATOR TOM J. WIENS

May 23, 2006

COMMITTEES:
Member of:
Business, Labor &
Technology
Transportation

Consul General of Mexico and Denver Juan Marcos Gutierrez-Gonzalez
5350 Leetsdale Drive, Suite 100
Denver, Colorado 80246

Dear Consul General Gutierrez,

Thank you for your reply to my letter of May 5, 2006. I was hoping to find an apology to the people of Colorado after you had unreasonably criticized our new policy allowing local, state and federal authorities to cooperate in the enforcement of U.S. immigration laws. I was disappointed, however, to see you did not apologize. Instead,

you chose to reaffirm your initial criticism of our statutes as enacted by our state's General Assembly.

You stated in your letter that you do not share my "opinion about concerns regarding disregard for the rights of sovereign nations to pass and enforce its own laws." This comment along with several others ring very hollow to me and virtually every American when we read in the media comments by Mexico's foreign Minister, Luis Ernesto Derbez, stating that because of the comments of the President of the United States to place U.S. National Guards troops on the U.S. Border with Mexico that, "If we see the National Guard directly detaining people, we would immediately start filing lawsuits through our consulates."

His comments, along with your, show once again a blatant disregard for "the right of a sovereign nation to pass and enforce its own laws," as I stated in my letter.

Again Mr. Gutierrez, you owe the people of Colorado, the General Assembly, and Colorado's law enforcement community an immediate and sincere apology. And it appears that your boss, Foreign Secretary Derbez, owes us a similar apology.

Comments by your government about wishing to work with the United States to resolve the illegal immigration issue between the two nations cannot possibly be sincere. Your country should be offering to work with the U.S. and with our National Guard, not threatening to sue us. The American people and elected representatives such as myself will not stand for these kinds of threats and disregard for American sovereignty.

That is why it is imperative that we understand one another when it comes to Colorado's efforts to enforce the rule of law. Toward that end, I am inviting you to meet at your office or mine so we can discuss this matter further. I believe if we sit down and address these issues face-to-face, you will realize the bill that I carried into law is not about racial profiling, as you alleged. It is about making sure that our law officers are not releasing potentially dangerous illegal aliens back onto our streets. You will agree that is something neither of our countries should be expected to tolerate.

I would be glad to meet with members of the news media present if you so desire, or we could meet in private; after which the two of us could brief the media about our talks. I trust you appreciate the gravity of this situation. I will await your response.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom".

Tom J. Wiens

