

[About Us/Contact](#)[News & Press Releases](#)[Issues & Policy](#)[Events & Photos](#)[Join Us!](#)

News@TheLatinoCoalition

Hispanic Leaders Urge Restraint in the Tyson Food Case

Washington, D.C. - The Board of Directors of The Latino Coalition (TLC) and the Hispanic Business Roundtable (HBR) called on Hispanic leaders across the country to show restraint and look at the facts before assailing and condemning Tyson Foods, Inc. on the charges of immigrant smuggling.

"Before we begin assailing companies and industries, and before we start with name calling and launching outrageous charges, we need to objectively look at the facts," said HBR President Mario Rodriguez of San Clemente, California. "We should look at the charges against Tyson and hear from their executives before we judge them. This would be the responsible thing to do. We will be able to accomplish much more this way, rather than by issuing outrageous statements and press releases."

"All in all, this case will bring a renewed interest in the immigration debate, and we should welcome it," Rodriguez added. "We should use this as an example to promote immigration policies that will protect our workers. Cases like this one show why President Bush was headed in the right direction during his negotiations with Mexico."

"Those of us who have been working hard to address the uninsured crisis in this country, have been very supportive of Tyson Foods. This company has been providing full health insurance coverage to their workers, which is much more than what others in the hotel, restaurant and nursing home industries have been doing," said TLC President Robert Deposada. "If Tyson is offering the same wages and the same benefits to all of their employees, we must be careful to avoid waging charges of exploitation of immigrant workers."

"We urge Hispanic organizations and their leaders to show restraint and avoid the name-calling and outrageous charges that have already been released by some in our community," Deposada added. "If this case goes to trial and the charges are proven to be nothing more than the irresponsible actions of several individuals, our leaders will be severely weakened by their passionate, yet irresponsible, comments."

The Board of Directors of both organizations called on Congress to start focusing on the criminal activities of the "coyotes", who profit from trafficking and smuggling of innocent workers from Mexico and Central America. "These are the individuals who are exploiting working families, and they are the ones who make it possible for irresponsible supervisors to take advantage of these workers," Deposada said.

"We also need to question why the INS was involved in smuggling workers as part of their investigation. Will they be bringing charges against those who actually smuggled workers across the border? Why aren't they devoting the same kind of time and resources to tracking those with overstayed visas and illegal immigrants from our northern border, which have proven to be a much larger problem for this country."

The Latino Coalition and the Hispanic Business Roundtable are non-profit, nonpartisan national organizations based in Washington, DC. For more information on these organizations please visit our websites at www.hbrt.org and www.TheLatinoCoalition.com.

.....
[Home](#) | [About Us/Contact](#) | [News & Press Releases](#) | [Issues & Policy](#) | [Events & Photos](#) | [Join us!](#)
.....

© 2001, The Latino Coalition.
All rights reserved.

The Latino Coalition
707 5th Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
Phone: (202) 546-0008
Fax: (202) 546-0807