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Consumer Credit

November 15, 2001

EDWARD R. ROYCE  
Thirty-ninth District-California

Mr. John Public  
123 Main Street  
Somewhere, CA 90628

Dear John:

Thank you for contacting me to express your concern about H.R. 3129, the Customs Border Security Act.

As you know, this legislation would grant new powers to the Customs Service and allow them to inspect suspicious mail going abroad. This is similar to the existing power they have now to inspect incoming mail and cargo. It would also expand the Custom Service's ability to obtain electronic information on passengers and cargo so that they are given a heads-up on any suspicious and high risk situations. A special \$10 million authorization in this bill would go toward enabling the Customs Service the technology and equipment needed to thwart child pornography and child exploitation.

I share your views on the role the federal government should play with regard to "police powers." I also understand your concerns **about federal law enforcement obtaining more and more power.**

I **strongly** believe in the traditional role of law enforcement, in which states and localities have been responsible for crime prevention and control. The framers of the Constitution intended to limit the Tenth Amendment for this specific purpose. While in Congress, I have consistently opposed legislation which would usurp the constitutional authority of state and local governments. I will be sure to keep your concerns in mind should this bill come before the House.

Again, thank you for taking the time to share your concerns. I appreciate having the benefit of your views and receiving your expression of civic support at this critical time in our nation's history.

Sincerely,

EDWARD R. ROYCE