

United States District Court
Southern District of Texas

Filemon B. Vela
Judge

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Office of Public Affairs
United States Sentencing Commission
One Columbus Circle, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20002-8002

Re: Proposed Amendment to Guideline for Unlawfully Entering or Remaining in
the United States, USSG §2L1.2

Dear Members of the Sentencing Commission:

As a Judge who during his tenure has sentenced perhaps as many as 15,000 persons, many who were convicted for the offense in question, I applaud your proposal as it will promise a more fair and just approach in the sentencing scheme.

As you might well acknowledge under the present guidelines, we are caused to sentence persons for longer periods of time just for having come back to this country illegally (given that they have been convicted of virtually any felony offense) than very serious drug situations of enormous magnitude.

I would encourage you to view the proposal favorably.

Very truly yours,



Filemon B. Vela

FBV:mfg

