July 26, 2013

The Honorable John Boehner
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Mr. Speaker:

We are writing to commend your clear and unequivocal rejection of Representative Steve King’s incendiary comments about undocumented immigrants.

Your decision to use your bully pulpit to speak out firmly sends a strong message that, however divisive policy disagreements may become, stereotyping and hateful rhetoric has no place in any civil debate.

The Anti-Defamation League has consistently called on political leaders and candidates to speak out against intolerant and dehumanizing rhetoric at every opportunity because policies adopted in the halls of government, and the tenor and rhetoric used to debate them, directly impact the lives of immigrants and all minority groups, regardless of their immigration status.

The task of fixing America’s broken immigration system is urgent and serious and demonizing immigrants does little to advance constructive solutions. It merits a respectful policy conversation that upholds America’s best ideals of ensuring dignity for all and that honors America’s heritage as a nation of immigrants.

Your leadership is an example we hope other legislators will follow.

Sincerely,

Abraham H. Foxman
National Director