November 20, 2015

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Our country has long served as a welcoming beacon to individuals and families who seek safety and refugee status within the borders of the United States. For years we have been proud to welcome refugees into our communities in their pursuit of a better life and future.

However, we are deeply concerned that the Islamic State of Iraq and Syria may have exploited the generosity of the refugee system to carry out Friday's terrorist attack in Paris. While the tragic event was a direct assault on the European Union's refugee system, the potential for this situation to arise in the United States is escalated by information revealed by the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, James Comey. In testimony before Congress, he admitted to certain inadequacies in the system that would prevent the thorough vetting of the 10,000 refugees your administration has pledged to admit into the United States.

As governors, we are charged with ensuring the safety and wellbeing of our citizens. In order to adequately fulfill this duty, we request that you immediately review the process by which you conduct background checks on all individuals applying for refugee status and address the gaps acknowledged by your director of the FBI.

In the wake of this recent tragedy, and until we can ensure the citizens of our states that an exhaustive review of all security measures has been completed and the necessary changes have

been implemented, we respectfully request that you suspend all plans to resettle additional Syrian refugees.

Sincerely,

Governor Robert Bentley
Alabama

Governor Douglas A. Ducey
Arizona

Governor Asa Hutchinson
Arkansas

Governor Rick Scott
Florida

Governor Nathan Deal
Georgia

Governor C.L. "Butch" Otter
Idaho

Governor Bruce Rauner
Illinois

Governor Michael R. Pence
Indiana

Governor Terry E. Branstad
Iowa

Governor Sam Brownback
Kansas

Governor Bobby Jindal
Louisiana

Governor Paul R. LePage
Maine

Governor Pete Ricketts
Nebraska

Governor Brian Sandoval
Nevada

Governor Chris Christie
New Jersey

Governor Susana Martinez
New Mexico

Governor Pat McCrory
North Carolina

Governor Jack Dalrymple
North Dakota

Governor John R. Kasich
Ohio

Governor Mary Fallin
Oklahoma

Governor Nikki Haley
South Carolina

Governor Dennis Daugaard
South Dakota

Governor Bill Haslam
Tennessee

Governor Greg Abbott
Texas

Governor Gary R. Herbert
Utah

Governor Scott Walker
Wisconsin

Governor Matthew H. Mead
Wyoming