

*Statement of Congressman Kenny Marchant*

*July 18, 2007*

*Financial Services Committee hearing to receive the testimony of the Chairman of the Federal Reserve Board of Governors on monetary policy and the state of the economy*

Chairman Bernanke thank you for testifying before our Committee today. In my opening statement today I'd like to focus on two very different but very familiar topics that have caused a lot of problems for this country: illegal immigration and our economic relationship with China.

There is no country in the world that has the number of illegal immigrants that we have here in the United States. We currently have an estimated illegal immigrant population of between 12 and 20 million people in this country. Now I know there is no way that the labor statistics that the Federal government puts out can account for all these illegal immigrant workers. However I am curious as to your view on what effect an illegal immigrant population of this size has on "real" unemployment in this country.

In addition, I'd like to hear your views, Mr. Chairman, on the historical uniqueness of our current economic relationship with China. By this I mean that we currently have a communist foreign country that is manipulating the currency market to our detriment, buying up our debt and meanwhile doing IPOs in New York City to raise money for their nationalized companies. I am curious as to your views the impact these combination of factors have on our economy as a whole and what we can do about it.

Thank you for your time Chairman Bernanke and I look forward to your testimony.