

Open Letter to President Donald Trump

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Dear President Donald Trump,

It may not be easy for you, as progeny of an immigrant from a free country, to appreciate severe infirmities suffered by immigrants from subject countries due to irrational restrictions. Such sufferings often leave lingering effects on generations down the line. I know this for sure as my grandfather was a Pioneer Punjabi Settler in California in the beginning of the last century. As he breathed his last in December 1945 just a few months before citizenship rights were granted to South Asians by The Congress in July 1946, our family got delinked from California.

I request you to kindly take an appropriate action to officially recognize unnecessary sufferings of Pioneers in Kafkaesque situation they were in for none of their actions. This gesture would be in the best democratic tradition of America. Nevertheless, Pioneers made a significant contribution to development of agriculture in California. They performed better than their Japanese and Chinese counterparts who have been granted some sort of recompense by the Congress.

Yours Sincerely,

Autar Singh Dhesi

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Autar Singh Dhesi obtained his Ph.D. from the University of Birmingham and taught at Coventry Business School, he retired as a Professor and Chair of the Department of Economics, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. He has been consultant to the World Bank, Washington D.C., the Ministry of Industrial Development, Central Water Commission, New Delhi; and has been a part time member of Punjab State Planning Board; Member, Panel of Industrial Economists, Planning Commission of India, besides having been founder President of Punjab Development Society (Regt.) Jalandhar. He has instituted Mahan Singh Dhesi Annual Lecture at Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in the memory of his pioneer grandfather and in honour of all the Pioneers of North America.