

July 15, 1983

To Whom It May Concern:

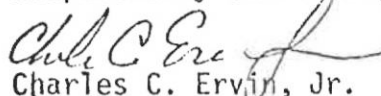
America is composed of immigrants who have come to our country in search of freedoms that are an integral part of our American way of life. Over the past two hundred years, these immigrants have contributed to maintaining this freedom and as importantly contributing to our economy. It is unconscionable to think that our country is now reversing itself to discriminating against persons that it does not fully understand.

Never before have we in America had the opportunity to welcome such a religious leader in our country as Bhagwan Shree Rajneesh. However, instead of welcoming him, we are attempting to discredit and deport him. This man has touched the hearts of millions of people through his lectures and more than 350 publications. Something is amiss! The City which is founded under its name in Oregon contributes millions of dollars to the economy and in itself represents a capital investment in excess of \$20,000,000. It is not as if he has asked the United States government for funding or to provide for his disciples. He only wants to live in peace and reach out and touch us through his heart.

Bhagwan has not spoken to his disciples in over two years. Understand this, what needed to be said has been said, the most important communication takes place in the heart not in the mind. Followers of Bhagwan do not question his place as spiritual leader, what gives an outsider the prerogative of acting as judge and jury on a man they cannot understand? This certainly is not the philosophy under which our country was founded!

As a citizen of the United States, I request that Bhagwan Shree Rasjneesh be allowed to remain in the United States as the religious leader that he is.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Charles C. Ervin, Jr.  
PO Box 7672  
Little Rock, Arkansas