

A Resolution Demanding Smart and Effective Security on the Texas-Mexico Border

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition is the collective voice of border mayors, county judges, and communities on issues that affect Texas-Mexico border region quality of life; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition strives to provide a better quality of life for the people who make up the communities of the Texas-Mexico border region by providing economic development opportunities, sustainable incomes in a healthy and safe environment, assuring the flow of goods and products between Texas-Mexico and advocating for government policies that support transportation, immigration and Ports of Entry, our workforce, education, healthcare and other areas vital to the betterment of our communities; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition supports robust commerce between the United States and Mexico in a framework of effective security and legal immigration; and,

Whereas, no region of the United States has a greater interest in border security than our communities; and,

Whereas, as elected officials, our effectiveness depends on sustaining the trust of the people we represent; and,

Whereas, the heroes of the Texas Revolution secured the independence of the Republic of Texas and the Treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, ending the U.S.-Mexican War, established the Rio Grande River as the border between two great nations; and,

Whereas, the United States Department of Homeland Security has proposed to build a wall that would place hundreds of square miles of Texas territory on the Mexican side of the wall, effectively ceding the Bentsen State Park and important agricultural, cultural and refuge lands to the Republic of Mexico; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition has worked hard to impress on officials of the United States Department of Homeland Security the necessity of cooperation and coordination among the federal, state and local governments in order to foster smart, effective border security measures; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition has been repeatedly assured by officials of the United States Department of Homeland Security that such cooperation and coordination is a priority for the federal government and will be forthcoming in the future; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition has been repeatedly outraged at revelations of policies, plans and maps detailing the United States Department of Homeland Security's strategies for border security without any consultation, cooperation or coordination; and,

Whereas, the United States Department of Homeland Security has manifestly repudiated its assurances of cooperation and coordination to the elected officials and communities of the Texas-Mexico border region, most recently by the Department's revelation in the September 24, 2007 edition of the United States Federal Register of detailed plans for 21 border wall segments in the Lower Rio Grande Valley without any prior cooperation or coordination of local government officials; and,

Whereas, the Texas Border Coalition supports alternatives to fencing that are smart and effective and ultimately achieve true security, such as the Vega Project in Webb County, the Eagle Pass Park project, the Brownsville Weir and Reservoir project and the clearing of the Rio Grande of vegetation such as Carrizo Cane that provides hiding places for illegal border-crossers. We support physical barriers in remote areas where they make sense and are agreed to by elected county and municipal officials. We strongly support smarter, more effective solutions where fences won't work that include radar, cameras, sensors and more effective deployment of Border Patrol personnel.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

1. The Texas Border Coalition demands and the People of the United States deserve smart, effective border security that does not include the betrayal of our history and the giveaway of Texas territory.
2. The Texas Border Coalition opposes the giveaway of any Texas territory by the United States Department of Homeland Security.
3. The Texas Border Coalition has no confidence in the assurances of the United States Department of Homeland Security that it will work with the communities of the Texas-Mexico border region to foster smart, effective border security measures.
4. The Texas Border Coalition will lead our communities in every arena available to us - in the Legislature, in the Congress, in the courts to reverse the misguided and ill-informed policies, plans and maps detailing the United States Department of Homeland Security's strategies for border security.
5. The Texas Border Coalition supports smarter, more effective solutions where fences won't work that include radar, cameras, sensors and more effective deployment of Border Patrol personnel.

6. The Texas Border Coalition supports smarter, more effective physical alternatives to the border wall proposed by the United States Department of Homeland Security such as the clearing of Carrizo Cane, the Laredo Rio Vega project, the Eagle Pass Park project, the Del Rio funnel project and the Brownsville Weir and Reservoir project that provide smarter, more effective solutions to securing the border.
7. The Texas Border Coalition calls upon every community of common interest on the Texas-Mexico border, in the State of Texas and the United States, including our state and national elected officials, to join with us in defeating the border security plans and policies proposed by the United States Department of Homeland Security that will make our nation less secure and replacing them with smart and effective means of securing our border and the United States.

Adopted, this day of October 1, 2007, by unanimous vote of the Texas Border Coalition. Copies of this original resolution shall be immediately communicated to the public, elected officials and the United States Department of Homeland Security.

ATTEST:

Chad Foster
Chairman of the Texas Border Coalition and
Mayor of the City Eagle Pass, Texas