

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 14, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chairman  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
2134 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
House Transportation and Infrastructure  
Committee  
1135 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

As the Committee considers legislation to invest in the nation’s transportation and infrastructure, we urge you to include language to prioritize the continued and completed construction of the southern border wall and complementary border security infrastructure.

As you know, in December 2020, Congress approved \$1.375 billion for border wall construction. Despite this Congressional direction, the Biden Administration not only abruptly and irresponsibly ended immigration policies that were successfully discouraging illegal entry and effectively managing asylum claims, it also suspended ongoing construction at the border. This left behind multiple gaps in the nearly completed southern border infrastructure, which are repeatedly exploited by smugglers and migrants to illegally access the United States. As a result, the Biden Administration – though less than 11 weeks old – has caused a record number of migrants to cross the southern border.

By any measure, a continuous physical barrier is a critical tool in restoring operational border control. Proof is found in San Diego, where a multiple layer security system, including fencing and accompanying technology and tactics, maintains necessary division between the urban communities of San Diego and Tijuana. Large legal entry points allow for approved goods and people to cross, which is essential to bilateral commerce and economic opportunity.

According to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS), one twelve-mile wall section in the San Diego sector “reduced CBP (Customs and Border Protection) manpower requirements by 150 agents every 24 hours.” These agents can be redeployed to other border security efforts. The Yuma, Arizona community also benefits from border wall systems. DHS notes illegal entries dropped 87 percent in Fiscal Year 2020 following new barrier system deployment.<sup>1</sup> Likewise, in the El Paso Sector, DHS recorded drug and smuggling activities dropped by 60% and 81% in zones with new construction.<sup>2</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> [The Border Wall System is Deployed, Effective, and Disrupting Criminals and Smugglers | Homeland Security \(dhs.gov\)](#)

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

The wall or barrier is a key component in a modern security system that is made more resilient with improved agent access roads, perimeter lighting, cameras, small unmanned aircraft systems, ground detection systems, and related technology. All of these tools work in concert to enable border agents to do their already difficult jobs effectively, more safely and more efficiently.

As the Committee considers multiple infrastructure requests, continuation of border construction is not only a fundamental priority for our communities – but for our national security as well. It is a proven, effective, cost-efficient, shovel-ready project that will benefit all Americans from the workers who build it, to the agents that defend our borders, to the communities that are made safer from narcotics to the fight to combat the human trafficking we know is happening every day.

Thank you for considering this critical request that is both timely and ready for deployment.

Regards,



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S  
Member of Congress



Tom McClintock  
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell  
Member of Congress



Jody Hice  
Member of Congress



Claudia Tenney  
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W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko  
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Ralph Norman  
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Matthew Rosendale, Sr.  
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Gus M. Bilirakis  
Member of Congress



Jay Obernolte  
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Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
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Diana Harshbarger  
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Lauren Boebert  
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Ken Calvert  
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Dan Bishop  
Member of Congress



Andy Biggs  
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Jim Banks  
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Louie Gohmert  
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Michael Cloud  
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Ronny L. Jackson  
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Byron Donalds  
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Marianette Miller-Meeks  
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Markwayne Mullin  
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Mo Brooks  
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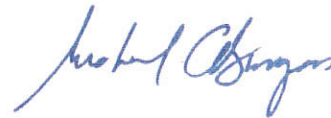
Bob Good  
Member of Congress



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Tom Rice  
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