

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 28, 2021

Joe Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

We write today to express concerns over Presidential Proclamation 10142, which halted construction on the southern border wall. We are deeply concerned about the wasteful spending caused by this proclamation. According to a recent report from the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management, more than \$2 billion in taxpayer dollars have been wasted on Department of Defense contractors to not build the border wall. This recent study found that in the period immediately following your proclamation, contractors were being paid \$6 million per day to not work. Current estimates predict that the Department of Defense is still spending roughly \$3 million per day on suspension costs to drive out to abandoned project sites and guard unused steel. In addition, according to court filings in *Biden v Sierra Club*, the Federal government is on track to spend roughly another billion dollars by CY 2022 to exit the seven remaining projects.

Under your Administration, the situation at the southern border has spiraled out of control. In fact, you are currently overseeing the worst border crisis in the past 20 years. Our border patrol is doing the best they can to secure our border, but they are overwhelmed. This fiscal year, more than 1.1 million migrants have been encountered at the Southwest border. More recently, on July 16th, U.S. Customs and Border Protection released the latest numbers for June, which included a 20-year high of 188,829 encounters. This comes on the heels of record-breaking numbers in the months of March, April, and May.

It is fiscally irresponsible for your Administration to halt funding on a border wall while still paying contractors. This estimated waste is only a small part of the actual costs of the ongoing crisis at our southern border. It does not include the cost of unused steel or funds allocated to newly created border facilities. We should not waste money merely to pay contractors to sit and watch the steel bake in the sun.

We implore you to resume construction of our southern border wall and put the contractors back to work.

Sincerely,



Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress



Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Debbie Lesko
Member of Congress



Brian Babin
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



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



Chip Roy
Member of Congress



Ralph Norman
Member of Congress



Scott DesJarlais
Member of Congress



John Rutherford
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Ben Cline
Member of Congress



Bill Posey
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress




Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Lauren Boebert
Member of Congress



Diana Harshbarger
Member of Congress



Matthew Rosendale, Sr.
Member of Congress



Barry Moore
Member of Congress



Bob Good
Member of Congress



Yvette Herrell
Member of Congress