



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

May 17, 2010

The Honorable Ciro D. Rodriguez
U.S. Representative, District 23
U.S. House of Representatives
2351 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4323

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. Representative, District 28
U.S. House of Representatives
336 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4328

The Honorable Silvestre Reyes
U.S. Representative, District 16
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4316

The Honorable Solomon P. Ortiz
U.S. Representative, District 27
U.S. House of Representatives
2110 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4327

The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
U.S. Representative, District 15
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515-4315

Dear Congressmen Rodriguez, Cuellar, Reyes, Ortiz and Hinojosa:

Thank you for your April 8, 2010, letter and for recognizing there can be no national security without a secure Texas-Mexico border. The federal government has failed to effectively secure our border and, in recent years, violence in Northern Mexico has skyrocketed.

As you know, I have asked the Obama administration to authorize 3,000 federal Customs and Border Protection personnel, 1,000 Title 32 National Guard personnel and the use of Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) along the Texas-Mexico border. Improving border security should not be a partisan issue, especially in Texas. I greatly appreciate the support of the Texas congressional delegation, from both sides of the aisle, to request additional federal resources for the Texas border region.

However, until the federal government dedicates sufficient resources to secure the border, it is important that state and local law enforcement work closely with their U.S. Border Patrol partners to protect Texans.

This is a growing challenge. Mexican cartels have steadily used terror tactics and prison gang affiliations to evolve into powerful and ruthless organizations operating on both sides of the border, including in many of our communities.

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Byrne Grant funds have been a valuable tool in our fight against these forces. Beginning in 2006, my office has allocated \$78 million in Byrne Grant funds to the border region, helping provide much-needed overtime wages, equipment and other resources to local law enforcement. The border region has received 39 percent of all state-directed Byrne Grant funds distributed in Texas. These grants are invaluable, since they provide more flexibility to allow local law enforcement agencies — who best know their own needs — to determine how this money can best serve their communities.

When it comes to funding for border communities, the 3 percent calculation you cited in your letter for Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) funds is incorrect. Between 2005 and 2009, 17 percent of the state's HSGP funding has been dedicated to the border region.

As you know, FEMA administers the HSGP, which is used to both address terrorism prevention and support response and recovery efforts to all hazards throughout the state. Dedicating all of these grant funds to the border region would violate U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) grant criteria, which require the state to address the federal government's 37 target capabilities.

Since 2005, my office has directed \$105 million out of a total of \$624 million in HSGP funding to the border region, constituting 17 percent of the state's HSGP allocation from 2005-2009. U.S. Border Patrol can confirm that there are 45 counties that fully participate in coordinated border security operations. A list of these jurisdictions is enclosed.

The border region is a priority of mine in the allocation of federal grant funds, as well as in state spending meant to supplement insufficient federal resources. Since 2007, the State of Texas has provided more than \$200 million in state funds to these efforts, enhancing border security by increasing the number of law enforcement officers and helicopters in the area, funding overtime needs and adding equipment in support of coordinated patrol operations throughout the border region.

I fully support your efforts to allocate Operation Stonegarden funds to the border region. As you are aware, DHS changed the grant guidance in 2008, enabling the agency to retain authority to determine which entities receive funding. Regarding the \$60 million you referenced in your letter, Texas — a state that includes 64 percent of the U.S.-Mexico border — was allocated only 27 percent of that total. Texas deserves more from DHS, especially considering most of the recent cartel-fueled violence is occurring in Mexican states bordering Texas. Anything you can do to help Texas gain a more appropriate amount of Operation Stonegarden funding would be invaluable in protecting our border communities and our state as a whole.

Lastly, it would be very helpful if border-area law enforcement agencies were freed to use the Stonegarden funds to hire officers with no federal strings attached. In my April 2009 letter to Secretary Napolitano, I requested that DHS remove a federal requirement that any local law

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enforcement positions created must be retained after funding has been exhausted. This requirement has hindered the ability of agencies to commit to adding the boots on the ground they so desperately need. I can assure you that your support of this request would be greatly appreciated by the chiefs of police and sheriffs along the Texas-Mexico border.

Thank you for your vocal support for greater law enforcement resources in the border region. With your continued efforts and support of the aforementioned issues, the State of Texas will remain the model for homeland security preparedness. I look forward to working with each of you to secure as much funding as possible to confront and eradicate this threat to our citizens.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly stylized font. The "R" is large and loops around the "i". The "Perry" part is also cursive, with the "y" having a long, sweeping tail.

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:jhp

Enclosure

COASTAL BEND	RGV	LAREDO	DEL RIO	MARFA	EL PASO
Aransas Co SO	Cameron Co SO	Duval Co SO	Dimmit Co SO	Brewster Co SO	El Paso Co SO
Bee Co SO	Hidalgo Co SO	Frio Co SO	Kinney Co SO	Culberson Co SO	
Brooks Co SO	Kenedy Co SO	Jim Hogg Co SO	Maverick Co SO	Hudspeth Co SO	
Calhoun Co SO	Willacy Co SO	La Salle Co SO	Real Co SO	Jeff Davis Co SO	
Dewitt Co SO	Starr Co SO	Webb Co SO	Val Verde Co SO	Pecos Co SO	
Goliad Co SO		Zapata Co SO	Uvalde Co SO	Presidio Co SO	
Gonzales Co SO			Zavala Co SO	Reeves Co SO	
Jackson Co SO				Terrell Co SO	
Jim Wells Co SO					
Karnes Co SO					
Kleberg Co SO					
Lavaca Co SO					
Live Oak Co SO					
McMullen Co SO					
Nueces Co SO					
Refugio Co SO					
San Patricio Co SO					
Victoria Co SO					