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**Mission:**

**To make Legislative  
recommendations to help  
the Texas Border Region  
grow and prosper  
economically.**



September 16, 2009

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Governor of Texas  
Texas Capitol  
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Perry

As the collective voice of border mayors, county judges, and communities on issues that affect Texas-Mexico board region quality of life, the Texas Border Coalition noted your announcement last week of an August expansion of Operation Border Star to include Texas Rangers and National Guardsmen on the Texas-Mexico border.

News accounts of your announcement quote you as saying, "They'll be deployed to high-traffic, high-crime areas along the border," remote areas where farmers and ranchers have complained of being overrun by smugglers and gangs from Mexico in numbers that also overwhelm local law enforcement and border patrol officers.

As county and municipal officials on the Texas-Mexico border, we strongly suggest improved coordination with local officials in your efforts. Your remarks, if accurately reported, create a public impression of lawless hordes overrunning the border region and do not reflect our collective experience.

Crime on the Texas border is on the way down after decreasing 65 percent over the past several years. Apprehensions of illegal border crossers are down more than 40 percent. In just the past year, El Paso -- the third safest city in the United States -- has seen apprehensions decline by 60 percent.

While each of our communities has their own unique issues, being overwhelmed by criminal elements from Mexico is not one of them. If you are devoting additional law enforcement personnel to our region, we would appreciate you and your staff taking the time to make sure that our efforts to secure the border are complimentary and coordinated.

Sincerely,

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