



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

February 26, 2009

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
12th & C Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20024

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

It was a pleasure talking with you on January 23, 2009, about border security. To reiterate and expand on our conversation, I would like to discuss some of the threats we face along the Texas-Mexico border, give an overview of the actions we have taken to address them, and request your assistance as we move forward.

As a former border governor, you are keenly aware of the importance of securing the U.S.-Mexico border from all threats, including the Mexican organized crime cartels that dominate the lucrative drug and human smuggling market. These organizations are responsible for more than 5,700 organized crime murders in Mexico in 2008, including more than 1,600 across the river from El Paso in Ciudad Juárez, and they have resorted to using terrorist tactics, employing former Mexican military commandos and transnational gangs, such as the Barrio Azteca, Texas Syndicate, MS-13 and the Mexican Mafia.

As a former governor and U.S. Attorney, you also understand the importance of leveraging the expertise and capabilities of local and state law enforcement in addressing national-level crime problems and security threats.

In 2006, I traveled to Washington, D.C., with a contingent of Texas border sheriffs to meet with Washington officials to request resources for local and state law enforcement agencies along the U.S.-Mexico border to amplify border security in a unified local, state and federal effort. Unfortunately, Washington did not see the value of investing in local resources as a cost-effective approach to provide immediate results.

In 2007, the Texas Legislature took the bold action of investing \$110 million in border security to increase local and state patrol capacity along the Texas-Mexico border to work with our U.S. Border Patrol partners as part of a unified effort known as Operation Border Star. These

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
February 26, 2009
Page 2

additional resources have made an important difference, but much more needs to be done. I will again be working with the Texas Legislature during the current legislative session to seek continued funding for border security and additional funding to address transnational gangs.

I respectfully request your support in seeking congressional funding to establish a Border Region Security Initiative, not unlike the Urban Area Security Initiative designations, that will provide additional local and state law enforcement positions, equipment and operating costs to rapidly increase the patrol presence along the U.S.-Mexico border.

As you know, the National Guard can play an important role in securing our border, which benefits not only the border states but the entire nation. I have committed all of the state's Title 32 National Guard Counterdrug resources to Operation Border Star; however, as we discussed during our telephone conversation, an additional 1,000 Title 32 National Guard positions are needed, along with six OH-58 helicopters equipped with Forward Looking Infrared Radar for night operations. These resources will be utilized only in Defense Support of Civilian Authorities (law enforcement). My Office of Homeland Security is currently working with the Texas Military Forces to formulate a deployment plan.

Lastly, I would like to invite you to visit the Texas-Mexico border to observe Operation Border Star so that you might consider this approach as a national model to increase border security.

Thank you for your consideration of this request, and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Perry". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style with a large, sweeping initial "R".

Rick Perry
Governor

RP:gep

cc: Texas Congressional Delegation