

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 23, 2016

The Honorable John Carter
Chairman
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
B-307 Rayburn HOB
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
Ranking Member
Committee on Appropriations
Subcommittee on Homeland Security
U.S. House of Representatives
1016 Longworth HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As you begin work on the fiscal year (FY) 2017 Homeland Security bill, we ask you to include language that will prohibit funds for U.S. Customs and Border Protection reception and representation expenses until the double-layered fencing required by the Secure Fence Act of 2006 are complete.

The most critical part of solving our immigration crisis is to secure our southern border. For decades, a porous border has allowed millions of immigrants to enter our country illegally. The lack of a completed border fence, technology, and border patrol agents, combined with the refusal of the executive branch to enforce our immigration laws, has exacerbated our immigration challenges.

For decades, a porous border has allowed millions of immigrants to enter our country illegally. The Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Pub.L. 109-367), which was signed into law by President George W. Bush, required the Secretary of Homeland Security to achieve and maintain "operational control" over the entire international land and maritime borders of the United States" and called for two layers of reinforced fencing in parts of California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas totaling more than 700 miles. This fencing was intended to deter crossings where illegal activity is a high risk, but DHS has yet to complete the law's fencing requirements.

Unfortunately, only a small fraction of federal appropriations over the years has gone toward construction of this fence. The lack of a completed double-layered fence has exacerbated our immigration challenges.

Shamefully, CNN reported in July of last year that there were 11.2 million illegal immigrants in the U.S.; 177,960 illegal immigrants convicted of crimes who were deported in fiscal year 2014; 121 illegal immigrants released from custody who were later charged with murder between 2010 and 2014; and more than 73,000 inmates in state and federal prisons who were not U.S. citizens.

A vital piece of the homeland security puzzle is ensuring that illegal immigration is prevented and that we have secure borders. In fiscal year 2016, Congress allocated \$447 million to the Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology Account, \$73 million dollars more than the President's request. However, that number is only a small fraction of the \$41 billion allocated to DHS last fiscal year. DHS needs to make completing the double-layered fence a priority and resources should be redirected from other wasteful spending within the department.

Unfortunately, we have no way of knowing how much the Obama Administration plans to allocate towards building the fence in the upcoming fiscal year, as the administration requested to eliminate all funding for the Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology Account and reprogram those resources into other accounts that are not as transparent.

In recent years, Israel's government constructed a security fence to prevent Palestinian terrorists from easily penetrating their country. Reports indicate that this barrier has assisted with reducing suicide attacks by as much as 90 percent. Security fences work, and completion of the double-layered fence on our border with Mexico should be a top priority.

Accordingly, we ask that you include language similar to the following:

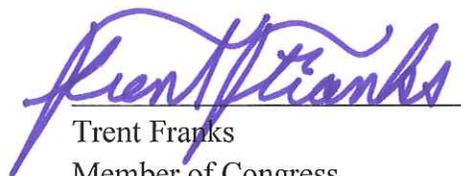
Sec. __. None of the funds appropriated or otherwise designated for "reception and representation expenses" under the office of the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection may be made available until the double-layered fencing required by the Secure Fence Act of 2006 is complete.

We thank you for your consideration of this request, and for your leadership on the committee.

Sincerely,



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



Trent Franks
Member of Congress

Mo Brooks

Mo Brooks
Member of Congress

David Schweikert

David Schweikert
Member of Congress

Jeff Duncan

Jeff Duncan
Member of Congress

Jim Bridenstine

Jim Bridenstine
Member of Congress

Brian Babin

Brian Babin
Member of Congress

Dave Brat

Dave Brat
Member of Congress

Jeff Miller

Jeff Miller
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Randy K. Weber

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Jody Hice

Jody Hice
Member of Congress

John Fleming

John Fleming
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Louie Gohmert

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress

Dana Rohrabacher

Dana Rohrabacher
Member of Congress



Sam Johnson
Member of Congress



Walter B. Jones
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress



Austin Scott
Member of Congress



Mick Mulvaney
Member of Congress



Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress