



Resolution 2006-005

October 19, 2006

A RESOLUTION OPPOSING THE SECURE FENCE ACT

WHEREAS, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce is the community's leading membership driven advocate and champion for business; and

WHEREAS, its primary objective is to create a climate of growth and success in our community as well as provide leadership and business building initiatives that focus on critical priorities in the community; and

WHEREAS, the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce continuously monitors initiative and programs that could economically impact sectors such as tourism and business activities as well as cross cultural and quality of life activities; and

WHEREAS, though it demarks our national boundaries, the Rio Grande River also serves as the shared water source between communities in Mexico and the United States, and as such demonstrates our common culture, even our mutual dependency; and

WHEREAS, as a consequence of terrorist actions and immigration reform, many in the United States call for increased checks and "tightening" of its borders, particularly along the Rio Grande River; and

WHEREAS, such proposals are understandable, and some improvements are clearly needed; and

WHEREAS, changes along this border must be implemented carefully in order to preserve the balance between national security, immigration and international commerce; and

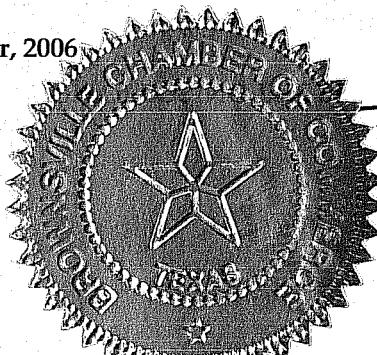
WHEREAS, the Rio Grande border must continue to sustain the vast amount of legitimate traffic, now topping \$45 billion annually, that contributes to our national economies and our regional marketplace; and

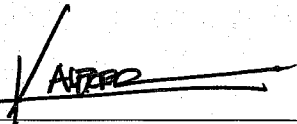
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Brownsville Chamber of Commerce opposes the Secure Fence Act, otherwise known as H.R. 6061 passed late last month requiring the Department of Homeland Security to install 700 miles of two-layered reinforced fencing along five areas of the Mexican border, with 176 miles of an uninterrupted stretch from Laredo to Brownsville. The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce finds the fence obtrusive and symbolically, it is insidious; as well as inhospitable, and a stark contrast to the gracious and genteel qualities that characterize local border communities and define their way of life and business.

Done this 19TH day of October, 2006

ATTEST:

Juan Armando Recio
2nd Vice Chairman/Secretary




Kevin Alford
Chairman of the Board

Brownsville Chamber of Commerce

1600 University Blvd. • Brownsville, Texas 78520 • (956) 542-4341 • Fax (956) 504-3348
email: info@brownsvillechamber.com • www.brownsvillechamber.com

Leading Businesses.
Leading Communities.™