



May 14, 2007

**VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL [ana\\_garcia@cornyn.senate.gov](mailto:ana_garcia@cornyn.senate.gov)**

The Honorable John Cornyn  
United States Senate  
517 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

Thank you for your time and your willingness to visit with Valley leaders on May 12, 2007 regarding fencing plans resulting from H.R. 6061.

I'm sure you're aware Brownsville's borders -- land, sea and air -- are our primary ports of entry for millions of dollars in goods and services, along with thousands of tourists, business visitors, workers, and other foreign nationals who contribute to our local economy.

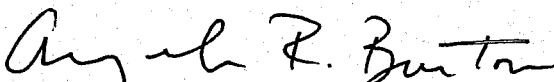
We are reminded daily by our long lines at the bridges and the extended questioning; the events of September 11 indicated that some have used our borders as an entryway for these evil and malicious attacks. As a result, many have called for increased checks and the "tightening" of our borders. While such proposals are understandable, and immigration improvements are clearly needed, difficult questions remain about the potential severe impact to border economies of any improperly conceived system that does not realistically deal with border communities and their concerns.

The Brownsville Chamber of Commerce believe that our borders can and should be a line of defense against those who pose security threats to this country, but borders must also allow for legitimate commerce and travel. We also believe efficient allocation and use of technology, personnel, and environmental friendly barriers can achieve these goals.

We encourage you and other legislators to take a very hard look at what is being proposed and make certain that building "tactical infrastructure" is the answer to our immigration i.e. border security issue.

Lastly, the Chamber encourages continued open dialogue and respectfully asks that the communities be kept informed of further developments with regards to the reinforced fencing. Again, thank you for your time and your continued service to the United States of America and to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

  
Angela R. Burton, IOM  
President/CEO

Brownsville Chamber of Commerce

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