



STATE OF TEXAS

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June 18, 2014

Colonel Steven C. McCraw  
Director  
Texas Department of Public Safety  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-4087

Dear Colonel McCraw:

The Texas border remains unsecured, threatening the safety of Texas citizens and provoking a humanitarian issue in our border counties. According to recent Texas threat assessments, the majority of Mexican cartels maintain control of networks in Texas to support drug and human smuggling operations. The various crimes directly related to cartels — murder, sexual assault, extortion, child prostitution, home invasion — put Texas citizens' lives at risk and strain the resources of state and local law enforcement and criminal justice systems. In addition, apprehension of unaccompanied minor children in the Rio Grande Valley more than doubled last year, overwhelming federal resources and creating the potential for increased drug trafficking and human smuggling.

The responsibility for securing the border rests exclusively on the federal government. The federal government's failure to secure the border has created an incentive for families to send their children on a dangerous, and sometimes fatal, journey. Until the federal government fulfills its duty, it falls on the State of Texas to address those obligations.

Last fall, you implemented Operation Strong Safety, which leveraged technology and manpower to reduce criminal activity and drive up the cost of business for cartels. The results achieved through this operation need to be continued and implemented over a wider area. Clearly, committing more of your resources will not end the humanitarian issues on the border, nor is it a complete solution to what is ultimately a federal responsibility. But the professional law enforcement resources at the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) can reduce crime, ensure the safety of Texas citizens and support the strained resources of local law enforcement and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

With this letter, you are directed to plan and execute a surge operation of increased law enforcement in Texas border counties. You are authorized to utilize all existing appropriated funds toward this

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operation. To the extent necessary, we will utilize our authority as governor and as co-chairs of the Legislative Budget Board to facilitate adjustments to the DPS budget until next session. The cost for this operation will need to be addressed by the next legislature in the supplemental appropriations bill.

In conducting this operation, DPS shall:

- provide the operational plan and detailed cost estimate to our offices;
- establish metrics and collect all necessary data to enable the measurement of the impact and effectiveness of the operation; and
- report monthly to our offices on significant developments or impacts resulting from the operation.

In addition, DPS shall prepare a full report for the 84th Legislature and Office of the Governor detailing the cost of this operation, its effectiveness and any recommendations regarding the cost of continuing or expanding border security operations. Our offices will remain in regular contact with you and your staff for the duration of this operation. We thank you and your staff for your time and effort.

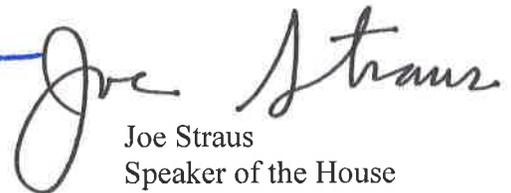
Sincerely,



Rick Perry  
Governor



David Dewhurst  
Lieutenant Governor



Joe Straus  
Speaker of the House