



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 16, 2022

Colonel Steven C. McCraw  
Director  
Department of Public Safety  
P.O. Box 4087  
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

Major General Thomas M. Suelzer  
Adjutant General  
Texas Military Department  
P.O. Box 5218  
Austin, Texas 78703

Re: Defend Texas Against Invasion

Dear Colonel McCraw and General Suelzer:

Since the launch of Operation Lone Star in March 2021, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) and the Texas National Guard have been given the enormous task of securing our Texas border. Over the course of the last year and a half, I authorized Texas Guardsmen and Troopers to repel and turn-back immigrants trying to cross the border illegally; arrest and return to the border immigrants who have crossed illegally; and arrest criminal trespassers and those violating Texas law. The number of drug traffickers and human traffickers you have arrested is astonishing. The wave of fentanyl and criminals you have stopped from entering the United States by way of the border is shocking. I thank you for the unprecedented work your Guardsmen and Troopers have done on Operation Lone Star. This work must continue and now be expanded upon.

As you know, these efforts have been required of Texas because President Biden has abandoned his responsibility to enforce immigration laws, and Congress has refused to hold the President accountable and has abandoned its own responsibility to use the immigration power given to it in Article I, § 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Attached are copies of a letter I sent to several Texas county leaders detailing the actions we have taken to secure the border. This includes my Executive Order GA-41, in which I invoked the Invasion Clauses of Article I, § 10 of the U.S. Constitution and Article IV, § 7 of the Texas Constitution to fully authorize Texas to take unprecedented measures to fight back against the

Colonel Steven C. McCraw  
Major General Thomas M. Suelzer  
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invasion at our border. As Governor of Texas and commander-in-chief of its military forces, I am using that Constitutional authority, as well as other authorization and Executive Orders to:

- Deploy the National Guard to safeguard our border and to repel and turn-back immigrants trying to cross the border illegally;
- Deploy DPS to arrest and return to the border immigrants who crossed illegally and deploy DPS to arrest illegal immigrants for criminal activity;
- Build a border wall in multiple counties on the border;
- Deploy gun boats to secure the border;
- Designate Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations;
- Enter into a compact with other states to secure the border;
- Enter into agreements with foreign powers to enhance border security; and
- Provide resources for border counties to increase their efforts to respond to the border invasion.

I am also asking counties to join me in sending urgent messages to Congress reminding them that it is the federal government's responsibility to secure the border and to provide resources to do so. Congress should amend statutes like 18 U.S.C. § 242 to ensure that our Troopers and Guardsmen are not exposed to federal criminal prosecution for protecting Texas against illegal entry between the ports of entry.

You have an essential assignment: Use every available tool and strategy to fight back against the unprecedented invasion that Texas is seeing at our border. Until Congress acts or the Biden Administration does its constitutionally required job, Texas Guardsmen and Troopers must bear the burden of securing the border. You must continue to keep Texans and Americans safe and protect against an invasion of the southern border. I order you to use all resources and tools available to repel immigrants from attempting to cross illegally, arrest those who cross illegally and return them to the border, and arrest criminals who violate Texas law.

Sincerely,



Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:jhd



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

November 14, 2022

The Honorable David R. Saucedo  
Judge  
Maverick County  
500 Quarry Street, Suite 3  
Eagle Pass, Texas 78852

Re: Defending Texas Against Invasion

Dear Judge Saucedo;

Thank you for the letter from your county expressing support for what Texas is doing to secure the border. As you know, President Biden has abandoned his responsibility to enforce immigration laws, and Congress has refused to hold the President accountable and has abandoned its own responsibility to use the immigration power given to it in Article I, § 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

Just two years ago, we had the fewest illegal crossings in decades. This past year under President Biden, an all-time record was set for the number of immigrants crossing the border illegally.

Texas has forcefully responded to Biden's open border policies by doing more than any state in the history of America to do the federal government's job to secure the border.

In my Executive Order GA-41, I invoked the Invasion Clauses of Article I, § 10 of the U.S. Constitution and Article IV, § 7 of the Texas Constitution to fully authorize Texas to take unprecedented measures to fight back against the invasion at our border. As Governor of Texas and commander-in-chief of its military forces, I am using that constitutional authority, as well as other authorization and Executive Orders to:

- Deploy the National Guard to safeguard our border and to repel and turn back immigrants trying to cross the border illegally;
- Deploy the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) to arrest and return to the border immigrants who crossed illegally and deploy DPS to arrest illegal immigrants for criminal activity;
- Build a border wall in multiple counties on the border;
- Deploy gun boats to secure the border;
- Designate Mexican drug cartels as foreign terrorist organizations;

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- Enter into a compact with other states to secure the border;
- Enter into agreements with foreign powers to enhance border security; and
- Provide resources for border counties to increase their efforts to respond to the border invasion.

Texas has devoted more than \$4 billion of Texas taxpayer dollars toward these and other efforts to secure the border and enhance public safety.

In January 2023 when the next Congress is sworn in, we must remind our representatives in Washington that securing the border is the federal government's responsibility under Article I, § 8 and Article IV, § 4 of the U.S. Constitution. Congress should reimburse the State of Texas for the billions of dollars we have had to spend on border security in the Biden Administration's absence. Federal officials who will not faithfully execute the immigrations laws should face hearings and even impeachment. Finally, Congress should amend statutes like 18 U.S.C. § 242 to ensure that our Troopers and Guardsmen are not exposed to federal criminal prosecution for protecting Texas against illegal entry between the ports of entry.

Join me in sending this urgent message to our congressional delegation, which has the power to act under Article I, § 8 of the U.S. Constitution. Texas has done more than its fair share for far too long. The time has come for the federal government to do its job.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott  
Governor

GA:mhd