



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 16, 2021

Mr. Mike Novak  
Executive Director  
Texas Facilities Commission  
1711 San Jacinto Boulevard  
Austin, Texas 78701

Dear Mr. Novak:

As the state agency in charge of procuring, building, and managing state-owned property and leased facilities throughout Texas, and providing support services to other state agencies, your work is central to building projects in our state. That includes projects that enhance the safety and security of Texas.

One of the most important public-safety issues today is the need to protect against criminal activity, loss of life and injury to persons, and property damage caused by the surge in unlawful border crossings at the Texas-Mexico border. At the request of county judges on and near the border, I have issued a formal disaster declaration to assist border-area counties, and their residents, respond to the challenges they are facing as a result of an unprecedented number of people coming into their counties illegally, including cartels, gangs, and smugglers. Texas must utilize every available strategy to prevent this activity. That includes constructing secure barriers at or near the border to prevent unlawful border crossings and help law enforcement deploy resources to focused areas.

To accomplish those goals, I hereby direct the Texas Facilities Commission to hire a program manager to oversee construction of a Texas border wall. A program manager will lead the process of planning and scoping the project, and hiring the contractors and subcontractors needed to build the wall. In fulfilling this duty, the Commission must satisfy all legal requirements and ensure transparency and compliance with competitive bidding requirements.

Thank you for your service to the State of Texas.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott".

Greg Abbott  
Governor

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