

March 23, 2017

Re: Oppose the border wall – Support H.R. 837, H.R. 739, and PROFILED Act

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of civil rights, faith, environmental, and indigenous organizations and communities, we write to express our opposition to any efforts to expand the extensive, nearly 650 mile -long border wall that already exists between the United States and Mexico as specified in the Border Security and Immigration Improvement Executive Order (1/25/17).

Instead, we urge you to support legislation such as H.R. 837, the Build Bridges Not Walls Act and H.R. 739, the This Land Is Our Land Act in the House – as well as the PROFILED Act in the Senate - that prohibit the use of taxpayer dollars to build the wall, ensuring that Congress remains a guardian of civil rights, a good steward of taxpayer dollars and the responsible custodian of the integrity of our wildlife and public lands.

The false narrative of a violent and insecure border region has long been used to justify and advance anti-immigrant, anti-border, pro-criminalization, and anti-environment legislation that has negative economic and civil rights impacts on border communities. However, the fact is that border cities are some of the safest in the country and that communities with more immigrants are likely to be safer than places with fewer immigrants.

The wall, increased militarization of the border region, the criminalization of immigrants, and the destruction of wildlife habitat are all tools of politicians who seek to advance an extreme and profit driven agenda at the expense of our communities. Moreover, these measures have nothing to do with the security of the border region or our nation.

The latest move to advance this administration's anti-immigrant agenda is President Trump's Executive Order (EO) directing the construction of a wall on our southern border. This EO is not just bad policy that will do nothing to make us safer and squander billions of dollars, but it is also a divisive decision opposed by civil rights, border, religious, environmental, and indigenous communities, and private -property and business owners who live and work along the U.S.-Mexico border. Latinos in particular see the wall as anti-immigrant, anti-Latino, and anti-Mexican.

Additional construction of the border wall is expected to cost \$21.6 billion according to the latest estimates from the Department of Homeland Security. In spite of the administration's unfounded assurances that another sovereign country will be made to foot the bill, the President has no ability to make that happen and should not make such false promises to the American taxpayers.

Further construction of a border wall will harm the environment that border communities cherish and depend on. It will further hurt wildlife; destroy sensitive habitat for endangered species; damage the natural flow of floodwaters; lead to costly litigation with landowners, Native American communities, and other stakeholders; and threaten the economic, social, and cultural ties between the United States and Mexico. Your leadership is needed to put an end to the unnecessary expansion of a southern border wall which, at its core, is simply another manifestation of this Administration's anti-immigrant sentiment dressed up as public policy.

Your support for legislation such as H.R. 837, the Build Bridges Not Walls Act and H.R. 739, the This Land Is Our Land Act in the House – as well as the PROFILED Act in the Senate - is critical. The Build Bridges Not Walls Act would protect taxpayers by prohibiting the implementation of President Trump's Executive Order to build a wall on our U.S.-Mexico border using taxpayer dollars. The This Land Is Our Land Act would bar the construction of any wall or fence on Federal lands controlled by the U.S. Departments of Agriculture or

Interior. Similarly, the PROFILED Act includes language rescinding the construction of the border wall and other provisions.

We strongly urge you to support these three pieces of legislation and are counting on you to help fight any legislative attempts to authorize or fund additional, and unnecessary construction of a wall at our southern border. For more information, please contact Luis Torres, Director of Policy and Legislation, at [latorres@lulac.org](mailto:latorres@lulac.org).

Sincerely,

League of United Latin American Citizens  
Advocates for Youth  
African American Ministers In Action (AAMIA)  
Alliance for African Assistance  
Alliance for Citizenship  
Alliance San Diego  
American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC)  
American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)  
Americans for Immigrant Justice  
American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)  
Arkansas United Community Coalition  
Arlington Street Church (Boston) – Social Action Committee  
Arte Inc  
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC  
Association of Latinos/Latinas Motivating Action (ALMA)  
Azul  
Bend the Arc Jewish Action  
Bioarch, L.L.C.  
Calpulli Mexican Dance Company  
CASA  
Center for Biological Diversity  
Center for Black Equity, Inc.  
Chicago Area Fair Housing Alliance  
Chispa, League of Conservation Voters  
Church World Service  
Coalition for Hispanic Family Services  
Colectivo Accion Latina de Ambiente  
Colorado Organization for Latina Opportunity and Reproductive Rights  
Comite Civico Del Valle  
Communities for a Better Environment  
Community Science Institute - CSI  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR)  
Defenders of Wildlife  
Detroitters Working for Environmental Justice  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Earthjustice  
EJWC  
El Taller Latino Americano  
Endangered Species Coalition  
Entre Hermanos

Equality California  
Equality New Mexico  
Esperanza Peace and Justice Center Farmworker  
Justice  
FLAS, Inc.  
Food Empowerment Project  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Peace Center  
Friends of Broward Detainees  
Friends of Friendship Park GLAAD  
GreenLatinos  
Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities  
Hispanic Federation  
Hispanic Health Council  
Hispanic Health Network  
Hispanos Unidos De Buffalo Inc.  
HONOR PAC  
Human Rights Campaign  
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
Immigration Equality Action Fund  
Interfaith Worker Justice International  
Indian Treaty Council  
International League of Conservation Photographers Islamic Center of San Diego  
Jesus People Against Pollution  
Junta for Progressive Action, Inc.  
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Commission of the Sisters of Saint Francis  
Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation Office, Sisters of St. Francis, Oldenburg  
Kino Border Initiative  
Klamath Forest Alliance  
Latin America Working Group (LAWG)  
Latino Commission on AIDS  
Latino Decisions  
Latino U College Access  
LatinoJustice PRLDEF  
Latinos for Secure Retirement  
Latinos in the Deep South  
La Union del Pueblo Entero  
Leadership Conference on Women Religious  
Leadership Team of the Felician Sisters of North America  
Long Island Wins  
Los Jardines Institute  
Massachusetts Immigrant and Refugee Advocacy Coalition  
Mazzoni Center  
Mi Familia Vota  
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd  
National Asian Pacific American Women's Forum  
National Black Justice Coalition  
National Center for Lesbian Rights  
National Center for Transgender Equality  
National Council of Jewish Women  
National Council of La Raza  
National Education Association

National Hispanic Media Coalition  
National Immigrant Justice Center  
National Immigration Law Center  
National Institute for Latino Policy (NILP)  
National Korean American Service & Education Consortium (NAKASEC)  
National LGBTQ Task Force Action Fund  
National Park Conservation Association  
Natural Resources Defense Council  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
New Mexico Environmental Law Center  
New York Immigrant Coalition  
Noble Renewables Group of the West  
NoMAA (Northern Manhattan Arts Alliance)  
North County Immigrant Task Force  
Northwest Immigrant Rights Project  
OneAmerica  
One Colorado  
Pangea Legal Services  
Pax Christi USA  
Pride at Work  
Pride for Youth  
Puerto Rico Para Tod@s  
Reformed Church of Highland Park  
Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services (RAICES)  
Rio Grande International Study Center (RGISC)  
Rosedale Recycles  
SAVE  
School of the Americas Watch  
Services, Immigrant Rights, and Education Network (SIREN)  
Services Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Sierra Club  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas - Institute Justice Team  
Sky Island Alliance  
South Asian Americans Leading Together (SAALT)  
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center (SEARAC)  
Southern Border Communities Coalition  
Southern California Immigrant Project  
Southwest Environmental Center  
Spanish Speaking Elderly Council – RAICES  
Texas Organizing Project  
The Dream Corps  
The DC Center for the LGBT Community  
The Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans  
The New York Immigration Coalition  
The United Methodist Church - General Board of Church and Society  
third horizon consulting  
Tri-ValleyCAREs  
T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for Human Rights  
Turtle Island Restoration Network  
UnLocal, Inc.  
United Latinx Fund  
United Methodist Women

U.S.-Mexico Foundation  
Valley AIDS Council  
Verde  
Violence Intervention Program  
Voces de la Frontera  
Voces Verdes Voto  
Latino  
We Stay/Nos Quedamos  
West Berkeley Alliance for Clean Air and Safe Jobs  
West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project  
WildEarth Guardians  
Wildlands Network  
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