July 19, 2017

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), the nation's oldest and largest Latino civil rights organization, I write to oppose any legislative attempts to keep funding the construction of a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border, the expansion of a Trump deportation force, and the increase of detention beds in immigrant incarceration centers.

As the House moves to consider the Fiscal Year 18 Department of Homeland Security Appropriation bill, and other security related bills, LULAC is deeply concerned about language that would provide billions for the construction of a costly and divisive wall along the Southern border, as well as hundreds of millions to hire a deportation force and expand immigrant incarceration.

The continued criminalization of immigrants, militarization of the border, and rush to build a costly, ineffective, and destructive wall on the U.S.-Mexico border are aims of radical politicians seeking to advance a xenophobic, anti-Latino agenda in this Congress. Unfortunately, this administration has failed to focus on legitimate staffing concerns at ports of entry, rebuilding port infrastructure, and protecting the land, water, and environment of the border. Instead, it is looking to seize the private property of border residents, destroy the natural habitat and wildlife in border communities, endanger border water supplies, and turn immigrant neighbors, families, and children into criminals who merit incarceration and deportation.

The House of Representatives should not enable these aims and should oppose any language seeking to advance the radical right-wing agenda of demonizing border communities and scapegoating immigrants. LULAC opposes any DHS appropriation bill, or any other appropriation vehicle, that funds border walls/levees, the hiring of Trump's deportation force and the continued expansion immigrant incarceration.

For more information, please have your staff contact Luis Torres, LULAC National Director of Policy and Legislation, by email at latorres@lulac.org.

Sincerely,

Roger C. Rocha, Jr.
LULAC National President

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