



National Border Patrol Council

October 2, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul
2001 Rayburn House Office Building
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman McCaul,

I am writing on behalf of the 16,500 members of the National Border Patrol Council in support of your bill entitled "Border Security for America Act of 2017" which will authorize a long-term multi-layered approach to border security and allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection to achieve operational control of the border.

This bill ensures a commitment to boost Border Patrol manpower, a resource desperately needed, by codifying a floor of 26,370 Border Patrol agents and authorizing specific increases for specialized agents such as K-9, horseback, and search and rescue units. Furthermore, this legislation expedites the hiring of law enforcement officers and veterans to address CBP's current staffing shortfall by easing polygraph requirements for qualified applicants. For far too long, the Border Patrol's resources have been stretched thin, but the manpower this bill provides will lead to an immediate increase in our operational control of the border by closing critical coverage gaps.

The National Border Patrol Council is greatly encouraged with the equipment and technology included in this bill to bolster the capabilities of individual Border Patrol agents. Specifically, the walls, fencing, and levees included in this bill will maximize our agents' effectiveness by allowing them to control multiple miles of territory. In addition, this bill will provide secure interoperable communications equipment to our field agents and deploy additional surveillance and detection equipment to both the southern and northern borders.

Although this bill is a great step towards enhancing our nation's border security, the National Border Patrol Council respectfully asks the committee to remove Section. 115 before final passage. This section wrongly prioritizes Border Patrol operations that occur right at the physical border. Unfortunately, this type of "goal line" defense is unsustainable and plays into the hands of the criminal cartels. The strategy of layered enforcement, or defense in depth, is critical to Border Patrol operations.

I appreciate your leadership in providing the right tools, laws, and funding to finally gain operational control of our borders. I look forward to continuing work with the committee to swiftly pass an effective piece of legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Brandon Judd", is written over a horizontal line.

Brandon Judd
President
National Border Patrol Council