

MICHAEL C. BURGESS, M.D.
26TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
229 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-7772
www.house.gov/burgess

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4326

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CONGRESSIONAL HEALTH CARE CAUCUS,
CHAIRMAN

October 13, 2009

The Honorable Bennie G. Thompson
Chairman
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Peter T. King
Ranking Member
Committee on Homeland Security
H2-176 Ford House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

*RE: Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, Fiscal Year
2010*

Dear Congressman Thompson and Congressman King:

On October 8, 2009, the United States Senate voted against Senator Jim DeMint's amendment to the Department of Homeland Security's Fiscal Year 2010 Appropriations Bill to fund an additional 300 miles of fence along the United States and Mexico border. I am troubled by this lack of commitment by the Senate in securing our borders.

Since Congress passed the Secure Fence Initiative of 2006, only 370 miles of the 630 completed miles have been built. The rest are "virtual fences," monitored merely by vehicle barriers and high technology such as videos. Senator DeMint's amendment would have mandated fully funding the aforementioned initiative so all 700 miles, as initiated by Congress in 2006, would be a real, physical fence.

I strongly urge you, as you select conferees for the Department of Homeland Security appropriations bill, to support inclusion of enough funds to complete the work of the Secured Fence Initiative of 2006.

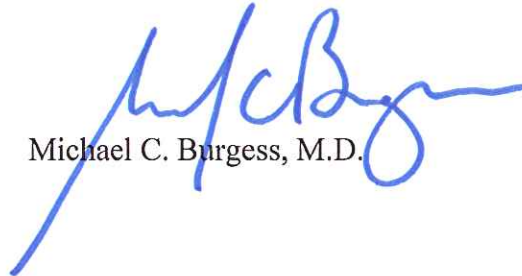
Thank you for your time and consideration.

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1660 SOUTH STEMMONS FREEWAY
SUITE 230
LEWISVILLE, TX 75067
(972) 434-9700

DISTRICT OFFICE:
1100 CIRCLE DRIVE
SUITE 200
FORT WORTH, TX 76119
(817) 531-8454

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Letter to Thompson and King
RE: DHS appropriations bill, FY '10

With regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "M. C. Burgess", is written over the printed name below it.

Michael C. Burgess, M.D.

cc: The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker

The Honorable Steny Hoyer
Majority Leader

The Honorable John Boehner
Minority Leader