

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

August 19, 2010

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

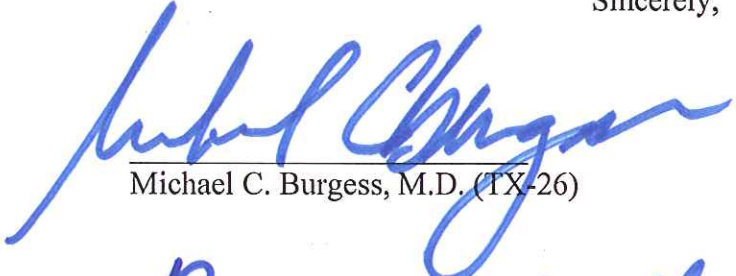
In April of 2009, Governor Rick Perry called upon your Administration to deploy 1,000 Title 32 National Guard soldiers and airmen to support Texas' efforts to combat human and drug trafficking and violence associated with transnational gangs and Mexican drug cartels. Specifically, the governor's "boots on the ground" deployment plan called for federal training of border patrol officers to support civilian law enforcement along the 1,254 mile southern border of Texas. This plan would have provided the manpower necessary to support what are now futile attempts to combat violence with a sparsely populated border patrol force.


Since the request, however, only 250 National Guard troops were authorized to deploy to the Texas-Mexican border for a period of no longer than one year. Although the response was appreciated, it is woefully inadequate. The small number of troops sent to the border will in no way appropriately address the expanding and violent war that is taking place along the border in our own country. Texas shares the largest border with Mexico of all the southwest border states, and is situated directly across from Ciudad Juárez, the most dangerous Mexican city to date. Although border enforcement is a federal responsibility, its failure to do so is pushing the states to act. The state of Texas has spent over \$230 million on manpower, equipment, and new technology to combat violence along its border. In fact, local law enforcement groups are now doing the job that federal border patrol agents should be performing.

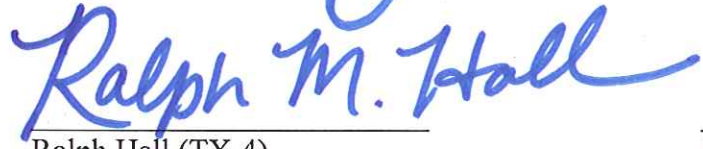
Violence along the border is on the rise, and we must face this problem head-on with the proper equipment and manpower needed to protect American citizens. Human trafficking, drug trafficking, kidnappings and homicides are a serious problem that cannot be ignored any longer. According to the U.S. Department of State, seventy-nine Americans were murdered in Mexico, and Ciudad Juarez saw over 2,600 deaths in 2009. In fact, violence in the border town of Ciudad Juárez is so out-of-control that the U.S. Department of State is advising American citizens to avoid traveling to the city. On June 29, 2010, several bullets from a deadly gun battle in Ciudad Juarez between Mexican police and gang members struck El Paso City Hall. This war has cost 28,000 lives, and the mounting spillover violence is threatening innocent American lives.

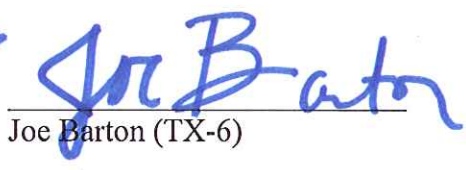
In light of these dire statistics of violence along the border, the Governor's original request of 1,000 Title 32 National Guard soldiers appears not only reasonable, but critical. A more secure border should be a National Security priority, as protecting our citizens from violence from abroad should be the federal government's number one concern. Your offer of 250 troops is an unacceptable response, given the grave situation on the ground. We would appreciate your timely response in justifying your initial offer of 250 troops, and urge you to expeditiously authorize the remaining 750 troops necessary to patrol the largest border of any southern state.

Sincerely,

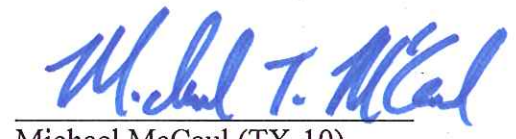

Michael C. Burgess, M.D. (TX-26)

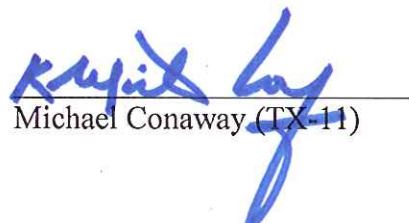

Samuel Johnson (TX-3)

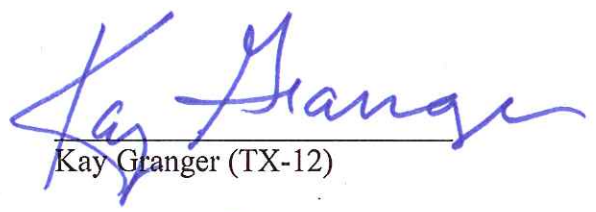

Ralph Hall (TX-4)

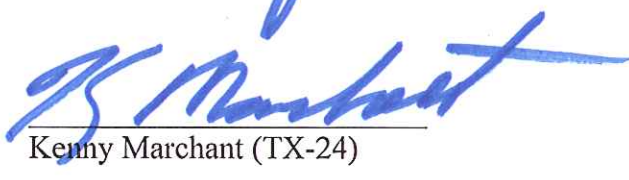

Joe Barton (TX-6)

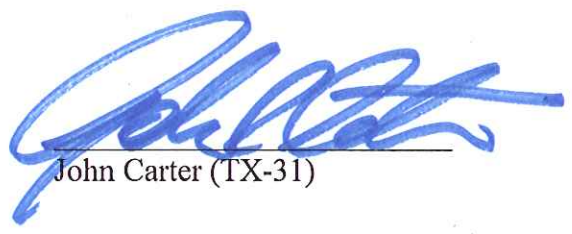

John Culberson (TX-7)

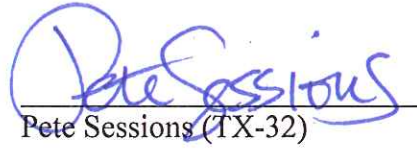

Michael McCaul (TX-10)


Michael Conaway (TX-11)


Kay Granger (TX-12)


Kenny Marchant (TX-24)


John Carter (TX-31)


Pete Sessions (TX-32)