



U.S. – México Border Mayors Association

February 1, 2011

Mike Huckabee
New York Post
E-Mail: letter@nypost.com

Dear Mr. Huckabee:

We are writing in response to your Friday column. As mayors of some of the largest cities along our border with México, we can tell you first hand that the Southwest Border Initiative is certainly working. We have seen unprecedented investment in terms of manpower, resources, and technology that has resulted in a more secure border. Under the leadership of Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano and Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin, we have implemented a successful strategy which includes greater collaboration with federal, state, local and tribal, and Mexican partners while facilitating legal trade and travel.

The results of the Southwest Border Initiative speak for themselves. Border cities are some of the safest in the nation. Border Patrol apprehensions, a key indicator of illegal immigration, have decreased 36 percent in the past two years. At the same time, we have seen increased seizures of southbound illegal bulk cash and weapons as well as northbound drugs. Since beginning the Southwest Border Initiative in 2009, Immigration and Customs Enforcement removed almost 800,000 illegal immigrants from our country and almost 200,000 of them were convicted criminals.

Despite the violence from drug cartels and opportunistic criminal elements that have plagued our sister cities in México, claims that our border cities are out of control are just not true. Not only do these claims fly in the face of statistical evidence, but they also disparage the tremendous efforts that our law enforcement agencies have made to protect this border and the people who live in border communities.

We mayors represent more than seven million Americans who live in our border communities and are constantly having to correct the false perceptions that our cities are not a safe place to live, work and play. We call upon the federal government to continue its efforts to secure our borders and investing in the manpower, infrastructure, and technology that will facilitate legal immigration and commerce.

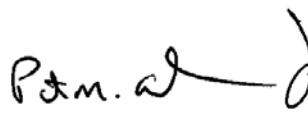
Sincerely,



John F. Cook
Mayor of El Paso, Texas



Raul G. Salinas
Mayor of Laredo, TX



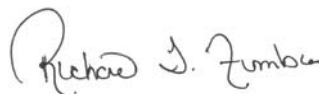
Pat M. Ahumada, Jr.
Mayor of Brownsville, TX



Alan Krieger
Mayor of Yuma, AZ



Bob Walkup
Mayor of Tucson, AZ



Richard Fimbres
Vice Mayor of Tucson, AZ



Arturo R. Garino
Mayor of Nogales, AZ



Jerry Sanders
Mayor of San Diego, CA

John Moreno

John Moreno
Mayor of Calexico, CA