

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to acquire and enhance technology and assets in rural or remote areas near the southern border.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. HEINRICH introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to acquire and enhance technology and assets in rural or remote areas near the southern border.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Remote Areas Border
5 Security Enhancements Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. DEFINED TERM.**

7 In this Act, the term “rural or remote area” means
8 an area within the United States along the international
9 border between the United States and Mexico that is not

1 within an area defined and designated by the Bureau of
2 the Census as an urbanized area.

3 **SEC. 3. BORDER SECURITY ENHANCEMENTS IN MOUN-**
4 **TAINOUS, HIGH DESERT, AND BACKCOUNTRY**
5 **TERRAIN.**

6 (a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 102 of
7 the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsi-
8 bility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1103 note; Public Law 104–
9 208), the Secretary of Homeland Security may not begin
10 the construction of any infrastructure project (including
11 a pedestrian fence, vehicle barrier, levee, gate, wall, fence,
12 road, or port of entry) along the international border be-
13 tween the United States and Mexico until—

14 (1) the Comptroller General of the United
15 States conducts a study that evaluates the need for
16 enhanced technology and maintenance on existing
17 equipment and other resources in rural or remote
18 areas, prioritizing mountainous, high desert, and
19 backcountry areas, including the estimated costs for
20 carrying out the activities described in paragraph
21 (2); and

22 (2) the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and
23 Border Protection—

24 (A) increases the use of advanced detection
25 and surveillance technology;

1 (B) acquires fixed and mobile technology
2 assets, including night vision technology;

3 (C) increases and improves interoperable
4 communications;

5 (D) acquires and deploys such additional
6 horses and off-road vehicles, including all-ter-
7 rain vehicles, as may be necessary to provide
8 for enhanced security in rural or remote areas
9 near the international border between the
10 United States and Mexico;

11 (E) increases and upgrades facilities to the
12 extent necessary to accommodate personnel and
13 asset needs, including horse patrol facilities;
14 and

15 (F) performs any maintenance and care
16 that may be necessary to preserve the oper-
17 ational capability of all mountainous, high
18 desert, and backcountry assets, including tech-
19 nology assets, vehicles, forward operating bases,
20 and horse patrol facilities.

21 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—In carrying out subsection (a),
22 the Commissioner shall—

23 (1) consult with agents in the field; and

24 (2) prioritize the deployment of such technology
25 based on the needs of remote stations and forward

1 operating bases in rural or remote areas near the
2 international border between the United States and
3 Mexico.

4 **SEC. 4. REPORT.**

5 Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment
6 of this Act, the Commissioner shall submit a report to the
7 appropriate congressional committees that describes the
8 implementation of section 3, including—

9 (1) the assets deployed in rural or remote areas
10 near the international border between the United
11 States and Mexico; and

12 (2) the expenditures incurred to acquire and de-
13 ploy such assets.

14 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

15 In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be ap-
16 propriated, there is authorized to be appropriated, to U.S.
17 Customs and Border Protection, the amount determined
18 to be necessary under the study required under section
19 3(a)(1) to carry out the activities described in section
20 3(a)(2).