

April 15, 2020

The Honorable Dr. Mark T. Esper
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
1000 Defense Pentagon
Washington, D.C., 20301

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable William P. Barr
Attorney General
Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C., 20530

Dear Secretary Esper, Acting Secretary Wolf, and Attorney General Barr:

While our country fights to combat the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, continuing border wall construction places local communities at unnecessary risk. We request that during this crisis, all border wall construction halt immediately.

Currently, the primary threat to the United States is the spread of COVID-19. This deadly virus has killed thousands of our fellow citizens, sparked a global pandemic, and tremendously slowed the United States economy. Money should be invested in healthcare, small businesses, and fighting the spread of COVID-19, not used to build an ineffective and wasteful border wall that does not solve our immigration crisis or protect our homeland. We should be using all resources and funding to combat this virus and protect Americans, instead of using critical funding and resources to continue the construction of a border wall.

The construction of a wall puts workers, law enforcement personnel, and border residents in immediate danger. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has outlined social distancing and quarantine policies, which further wall construction defies. Those who are tasked with building this wall are susceptible to not only contracting COVID-19, but also risk spreading the virus to others. Continuation of construction only exacerbates the public health risks for those living at the southern border, detracting from our national efforts against fighting this virus.

At this juncture, the priority of the United States must be to stop the spread of COVID-19. The continuation of wall construction compromises those efforts. For these reasons, we ask that you take all steps necessary to ensure that border communities are protected from the unnecessary risk of infection during this pandemic and utilize critical resources to combat the spread of COVID-19.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Cuellar, 1

Sincerely,

/s/ Martin Heinrich
Martin Heinrich
United States Senator

/s/ Kamala D. Harris
Kamala D. Harris
United States Senator

/s/ Edward J. Markey
Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

/s/ Jack Reed
Jack Reed
United States Senator

/s/ Mazie K. Hirono
Mazie K. Hirono
United States Senator

/s/ Richard J. Durbin
Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator

/s/ Thomas R. Carper
Tom Carper
United States Senator

/s/ Kristen Gillibrand
Kristen Gillibrand
United States Senator

/s/ Sheldon Whitehouse
Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

/s/ Ron Wyden
Ron Wyden
United States Senator

/s/ Amy Klobuchar
Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

/s/ Robert Menendez
Robert Menendez
United States Senator

/s/ Henry Cuellar
Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress

/s/ Charles E. Schumer
Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

/s/ Richard Blumenthal
Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

/s/ Elizabeth Warren
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

/s/ Patrick Leahy
Patrick Leahy
United States Senator

/s/ Cory A. Booker
Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Baldwin
Tammy Baldwin
United States Senator

/s/ Chris Van Hollen
Chris Van Hollen
United States Senator

/s/ Christopher A. Coons
Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

/s/ Tammy Duckworth
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

/s/ Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/ Bernard Sanders
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

/s/ Jeffrey A. Merkley
Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator

/s/ Jerrod Nadler
Jerrod Nadler
Member of Congress

/s/ Katherine Clark
Katherine Clark
Member of Congress

/s/ Ben Ray Lujan
Ben Ray Lujan
Member of Congress

/s/ Rosa. L. DeLauro
Rosa L. DeLauro
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter A. DeFazio
Peter A. DeFazio
Member of Congress

/s/ Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress

/s/ Ayanna Pressley
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress

/s/ Bobby L. Rush
Bobby L. Rush
Member of Congress

/s/ Joseph P. Kennedy
Joseph P. Kennedy
Member of Congress

/s/ Jan Schakowsky
Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

/s/ Eliot L. Engel
Eliot L. Engel
Member of Congress

/s/ Tom Udall
Tom Udall
United States Senator

/s/ Hakeem Jeffries
Hakeem Jeffries
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Pocan
Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

/s/ Joaquin Castro
Joaquin Castro
Member of Congress

/s/ Betty McCollum
Betty McCollum
Member of Congress

/s/ David E. Price
David E. Price
Member of Congress

/s/ Rashida Tlaib
Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress

/s/ Barbara Lee
Barbara Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Nydia M. Velazquez
Nydia M. Velazquez
Member of Congress

/s/ Earl Blumenauer
Earl Blumenauer
Member of Congress

/s/ C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
C.A. Dutch Ruppersberger
Member of Congress

/s/ Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Jesus G. "Chuy" Garcia
Member of Congress

/s/ Tony Cardenas
Tony Cardenas
Member of Congress

/s/ Sylvia R. Garcia
Sylvia R. Garcia
Member of Congress

/s/ David Cicilline
David Cicilline
Member of Congress

/s/ J. Luis Correa
J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress

/s/ Eleanor Holmes Norton
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress

/s/ Judy Chu
Judy Chu
Member of Congress

/s/ Jackie Speier
Jackie Speier
Member of Congress

/s/ Jimmy Panetta
Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace Meng
Grace Meng
Member of Congress

/s/ James P. McGovern
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress

/s/ Jamie Raskin
Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress

/s/ Andre Carson
Andre Carson
Member of Congress

/s/ Shelia Jackson Lee
Shelia Jackson Lee
Member of Congress

/s/ Juan Vargas
Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

/s/ Veronica Escobar
Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress

/s/ Darren Soto
Darren Soto
Member of Congress

/s/ Danny K. Davis
Danny K. Davis
Member of Congress

/s/ Vicente Gonzalez
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress

/s/ Steve Cohen
Steve Cohen
Member of Congress

/s/ Ann Kirkpatrick
Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress

/s/ Adriano Espaillat
Adriano Espaillat
Member of Congress

/s/ Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Al Green
Al Green
Member of Congress

/s/ Lori Trahan
Lori Trahan
Member of Congress

/s/ Karen Bass
Karen Bass
Member of Congress

/s/ Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr
Gilbert R. Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

/s/ Doris O. Matsui
Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress

/s/ Albio Sires
Albio Sires
Member of Congress

/s/ John B. Larson
John B. Larson
Member of Congress

/s/ Yvette D. Clark
Yvette D. Clark
Member of Congress

/s/ Brenda L. Lawrence
Brenda L. Lawrence
Member of Congress

/s/ Mark Takano
Mark Takano
Member of Congress

/s/ Gerald E. Connolly
Gerald E. Connolly
Member of Congress

/s/ Bonnie Watson Coleman
Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

/s/ Cedric L. Richmond
Cedric L. Richmond
Member of Congress

/s/ Norma J. Torres
Norma J. Torres
Member of Congress

/s/ Nanette Diaz Barragan
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress

/s/ Peter Welch
Peter Welch
Member of Congress

/s/ Gregory W. Meeks
Gregory W. Meeks
Member of Congress

/s/ Deb Haaland
Deb Haaland
Member of Congress

/s/ Thomas R. Suozzi
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress

/s/ Grace F. Napolitano
Grace F. Napolitano
Member of Congress