



# NEW MEXICO FARM & LIVESTOCK BUREAU

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July 9, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing on behalf of the 20,000 members of the New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau who are concerned about the security of our nation and its citizens. When you declared a national emergency concerning the Southern border on February 15<sup>th</sup> residents of New Mexico hoped that would mean additional Customs and Border Protection patrol agents and greater resources for securing our border.

Americans living along the border are in real danger. Because Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents have been re-assigned to process asylum seekers, the border is virtually unprotected. Drug runners and human traffickers have become increasingly brazen in their runs across the border. They break into homes and barns, destroy water systems meant for cattle and if lost, start signal fires that turn into wildfires. Their high-speed get away efforts jeopardize the safety of American families traveling in the area.

Smugglers headed North cut through barbed wire fences leaving voids where cattle can easily enter the US and vice versa. American cattle roam to Mexico where they are impossible to recover and cattle coming from Mexico can reintroduce many diseases that have been eradicated from herds in the U.S. A resurgence of hoof and mouth disease, tuberculosis or brucellosis would devastate our ranching economy and have a negative impact on the nation's economy as a whole. CBP agents provide an important first line of defense in ensuring that the integrity of fences is maintained.

Additional CBP agents would allow New Mexico's five interior check points to re-open. These checkpoints are responsible for annual drug seizures in the thousands of pounds of cocaine, heroin, marijuana, fentanyl and methamphetamine. Drugs are the source of a great deal of crime in our state. From property theft, to child abuse, to DUI accidents, drugs are causing great harm in our rural communities. Securing our borders and reinstating check points would slow the influx of drugs. We suggest employing contract labor to assist with processing of asylum seekers that, in turn will allow those CBP agents who are law enforcement certified to return to the field.

We invite you to come to the border and visit with our ranching families. You would be shocked and dismayed to hear their stories of how smugglers are endangering area children. To prevent further destruction, we ask again that you please send additional border patrol agents and ensure that our borders are safe.

Sincerely,  
Craig Ogden, President  
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau