

Resolution of Support by the Burnet County Commissioners Court

STATE OF TEXAS

§

COMMISSIONERS COURT

COUNTY OF BURNET

§

OF BURNET COUNTY, TEXAS

BE IT REMEMBERED at a meeting of Commissioners Court of Burnet County, Texas, held on this ____ Day of February, 2024, on motion by _____, Commissioner of Precinct No. _____, and second by _____, Commissioner of Precinct No. _____, the following **RESOLUTION** was adopted:

A RESOLUTION CALLING FOR ADDITIONAL MEASURES TO SECURE THE BORDER, STOP THE INVASION AT THE BORDER, AND PROTECT OUR COMMUNITIES

WHEREAS, the Preamble to the United States Constitution outlines the chief responsibility of the Federal Government is to “insure domestic tranquility” and “provide for the common defense”; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 4 of the United States Constitution provides “The United States *shall guarantee* to every State in this Union a Republican Form of Government, and *shall protect each of them against invasion*”; and

WHEREAS, Article IV, Section 7 of the Texas Constitution provides the Governor of Texas legal authority as “Commander-in-Chief of the military forces of the State”... and... “He shall have power to *call forth the militia to execute the laws of the State*, to suppress insurrections, and to *repel invasions*”; and

WHEREAS, Governor Greg Abbott, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Texas National Guard are using legal authority vested by the Texas Constitution to secure the border, stop the smuggling of drugs, weapons, and cartel-trafficked people into Texas, and prevent, detect, and interdict transnational criminal activity between ports of entry; and

WHEREAS, Since Gov. Abbott launched Operation Lone Star in March 2021, the multi-agency effort has led to more than 473,900 arrests of illegal aliens, including more than 34,800 criminal arrests, with more than 31,800 felony charges reported. Statewide, OLS officers have seized over 431 million lethal doses of fentanyl, enough to kill more than the populations of the U.S. and Canada.

WHEREAS, since January 2021, over 8 million illegal border crossers have entered the U.S., totaling more than the individual populations of 38 U.S. states.¹ The overwhelming majority of them are single adults. These numbers exclude the more than 1.6 million got-aways who are known to have evaded capture after illegally entering the U.S.² It also

¹ Bethany Blankley, “Illegal border crossers since 2021 total more than the individual populations of 38 states,” The Center Square, June 22, 2023, https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_81293caa-1050-11ee-8619-734bf91c6025.html.

² “The Border Report: Nearly 1.6 million 'gotaways' in U.S. since January 2021,” The Center Square, https://www.thecentersquare.com/national/article_39ac2a1e-427c-11ee-b491-8f09038b3e88.html.

excludes over 600 known, suspected terrorists who've been apprehended at our southern and northern borders.³

This invasion is unsustainable and threatens the lives of our citizens. Counties and states cannot absorb the socio-economic costs and criminal impact resulting from illegal immigration and an unsecure and open border.

WHEREAS, Gov. Abbott and the Texas Legislature designated Mexican cartels as Foreign Terrorist Organizations; the cartels act as paramilitary, narco-terrorist organizations that profit from trafficking people and drugs into the United States and use migrant warfare to obfuscate the trafficking of drugs and people by utilization of irregular techniques, tactics, and procedures. The terrorist designation acknowledges that non-state actors are conducting irregular warfare operations and breaching the sovereignty and national security of the United States, and furthering Gov. Abbott's formal diplomatic representation to the United States that the State of Texas is not protected against an invasion; and

WHEREAS, the ongoing border security crisis is creating a national security threat and humanitarian disaster with overwhelming consequences to the lives and liberties of the residents of the State of Texas; and

WHEREAS, on July 5, 2022, the counties of Kinney, Goliad and Terrell declared an invasion for the first time in Texas history. Since then, nearly 50 counties have declared an invasion⁴; over 50 have declared disaster declarations. The counties have 1) declared an invasion, 2) are calling on the judges and commissioners of Texas' remaining roughly 200 counties to also declare an invasion, and to 3) commit to support repelling the declared invasion of those who relentlessly go to great lengths to circumvent the laws of Texas and the United States of America.

WHEREAS, Gov. Greg Abbott has called a special legislative session for the legislature to pass a law to make it a criminal offense for illegal entry into Texas from a foreign nation, to authorize all licensed peace officers to remove illegal aliens from Texas, to increase penalties for human smuggling, and to provide more funding for the construction, operation, and maintenance of Texas' border barrier infrastructure.

THEREFORE, LET IT BE RESOLVED, that we express support for Governor Abbott's efforts to secure the Texas border, defend Texas' sovereignty and call on the legislature to also declare an invasion and provide additional legal authorities in support of Operation Lone Star. By counties declaring an invasion we are expressing support for state executive and legislative authorities to secure the Texas border.

Adopted and approved this _____ day of _____ 2024.

Hon. James Oakley
Burnet County Judge

Jim Luther
County Commissioner, Precinct 1

Damon Beierle
County Commissioner, Precinct 2

³ U.S. Customs & Border Protection Terrorist Screening Dataset (TSDS) encounters, <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>, as of September 15, 2023.

⁴ "Four more Texas counties declare invasion at southern border," The Center Square, July 15, 2023, https://www.thecentersquare.com/texas/article_427cdeb8-2323-11ee-980f-c713ea89f55a.html.

Billy Wall
County Commissioner, Precinct 3

Joe Don Dockery
County Commissioner, Precinct 4