



310 N. Mesa • Suite 824 • El Paso, Texas • 79901 • Tel: (915) 838-6860 • Fax: (915) 838-6880
Washington, D.C. Tel: (202) 661-4736 • Fax: (202) 329-8901
www.bordercounties.org

January 31, 2007

Ms. Veronica de Lafuente
Governmental Affairs Director
Office of Hidalgo County Judge J.D. Salinas III
100 East Cano St., 2nd Floor
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Dear Ms. de Lafuente:

In response to the request of your counsel, I am providing further clarification of the general purpose of the US/Mexico Border Counties Coalition (Coalition) and the specific services that will be provided to Hidalgo County as a member of the Coalition.

The Coalition is established as Nonprofit Mutual Benefit Corporation under California law. As stated in Article II, Section B. of its Articles of Incorporation "The specific purpose of this corporation is to provide a non-partisan, consensus-based policy and technical forum to address challenges facing county governments located on the United States/Mexico Border". In other words, it is specifically established to address the public interests of taxpayers residing on the U.S./Mexico border.

In the process of carrying out its specific stated purpose for the mutual benefit of its members, the Coalition does provide specific services to each county member. Specific services provided to Hidalgo County and benefits derived as a consequence of its membership in the Coalition include but are not limited to:

- Receipt of regular (as often as daily) communications regarding proposed federal legislation impacting the interests of Hidalgo County.
- Receipt of professional advice regarding appropriate responses to such legislation.
- Receipt of regular communications regarding federal grant opportunities benefiting Hidalgo County.
- Compilation and inclusion of its county data in the various public reports published by the Coalition. Such data is for the educational benefit of the readers and is available to the County for its own use and purposes. Examples include the Coalition's Criminal Justice Cost study, its Emergency Medical Cost study, and its Border Profile.
- Preservation of federal programs such as the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program and the Southwest Border Prosecution Initiative that directly benefit Hidalgo County.
- Opportunities to meet and network with other border counties and border service providers in mutual support.
- Opportunities to meet with federal decision makers who influence legislation and programs directly impacting the County.

I hope this adequately addresses the request of your counsel. We look forward to your active participation in the Coalition as our collective efforts produce more and better results for the benefit of all border county residents.

Sincerely,

David M. Austin
Border Representative

The United States/Mexico Border Counties Coalition

Invoice

El Paso Office
310 N. Mesa, Suite 824
El Paso, Texas 79901

Date	Invoice #
1/1/2007	450

Bill To
Ms. Veronica de Lafuente Hidalgo County PO Box 1356 Edinburg TX 78540

Description	Amount
Pro-rated Annual membership dues - 2006/2007	5,000.00
RECEIVED JAN 23 2007 <i>ME</i> COUNTY JUDGE	
We appreciate your prompt payment.	Total \$5,000.00