

The United States/Mexico Border Counties Coalition

# Invoice

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

Date	Invoice #
7/1/2007	485

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

Description	Amount
Annual dues 2007/2008	10,250.00
<p>* fiscal yr. July 1<sup>st</sup> - June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008</p> <p>INVOICE RECEIVED BY: <u>Veronica</u> on <u>7/20/07</u> GOODS/SERVICES RECEIVED BY: <u>Hidalgo</u> on _____</p> <p>1-1100-413-30-115-017-0-810 <i>MB</i></p>	
We appreciate your prompt payment.	<b>Total</b> <u>\$10,250.00</u>



RECEIVED

JUL 05 2007

COUNTY JUDGE

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](http://www.bordercounties.org)

June 30, 2007

Dear Coalition Member:

Enclosed is an invoice dated July 1, 2007 for your county's 2007/2008 membership dues for the US/Mexico Border Counties Coalition. Please note that this invoice reflects a 1/4% automatic dues increase as adopted by the Board in March 2006. Your prompt payment of these dues will be most appreciated and will allow us to continue the vital work of the Coalition.

The US/Mexico Border Counties Coalition continues to strongly represent your interests and is recognized in Washington, D.C. as a leading advocate for border issues.

In March 2006, the Coalition released its two-year study entitled *At the Crossroads: Border Counties in Transition*, a comprehensive profile of border county economics and related statistics. This study continues to receive wide-spread notice in Washington, D.C. and throughout the nation. This study serves as a primary information resource for our border Congressional delegation as they continue to support the Coalition's efforts to educate non-border members of Congress.

In the area of health care, the Coalition maintained its vigilance over the Section 1011 funding for emergency medical care provided to undocumented immigrants. Section 1011 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 provides \$250 million per year for fiscal years 2005-2008 for payments to eligible providers for emergency health services provided to undocumented aliens and other specified aliens. Members of the Coalition met with the managers of the Section 1011 program at the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. and expressed their concern that the funds were not being fully utilized to date and explored opportunities to expand the coverage of the program.

The Coalition again has been at the forefront of advocacy for the continuation of the State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP). Members of the Coalition met with Department of Justice officials in March 2007 in Washington, D.C. and reiterated once again the importance of this program to border counties. The Coalition members also expressed their concern that the release of the funds for FY2006 was being administratively delayed. The funds were released just this week.

The Coalition also obtained a Congressional appropriation in FY2006 to update its 1999 criminal justice and law enforcement cost study. This update comes at a critical time during the current debate regarding immigration reform and border security. Field work for the study has been completed and the final study is scheduled to be released at our annual Border Conference in Las Cruces, New Mexico on September 8<sup>th</sup>.

The Coalition has also been closely monitoring and has been consulted with regarding the recently concluded debate on immigration and border security. The Coalition will continue to closely monitor these issues on behalf of its members.

The Coalition was pleased to welcome Hidalgo County, Texas as its newest member during the year. With the addition of Hidalgo County, we have attained a level of membership that includes 22 of the 24 eligible counties. Please renew your support today or, if you haven't joined previously, please join with your fellow border counties to make a positive difference for our border communities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David M. Austin".

David M. Austin  
Border Representative

Enclosure