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MAR 28 2012
COUNTY JUDGE

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March 12, 2012

The Honorable Ramon Garcia
Hidalgo County
100 N. Closner
Edinburg, Texas 78539

Dear Judge Garcia:

At the February 14, 2012 Commissioner's Court meeting, a question was raised regarding the activities of the US/Mexico Border Counties Coalition.

The Coalition, which is a California corporation established as a 501(c)4 organization, is a non-partisan, consensus-based policy and technical forum founded to address the challenges facing county governments located on the United States/Mexico border.

The Coalition is not a registered lobbyist and does not engage in lobbying. The Coalition does conduct educational conferences dealing with border issues and provides information to Members of Congress regarding these issues. We serve as a resource to the Members of Congress. Examples of the kind of information we provide to Congress can be found on our website at www.bordercounties.org. I have also completed the requested Affidavit for Payment of Membership Dues that I received from the County Auditor (copy attached).

Judge, we appreciate your support of the Coalition. As a major urban county on the border, Hidalgo County's participation is critical to the success of the Coalition. I hope this clarifies our purpose and activities, such that the concerns that were raised are ameliorated. We look forward to your continued active participation in the Coalition.

Sincerely,

David M. Austin
Border Representative

Attachment

**TO THE COUNTY AUDITOR
AFFIDAVIT FOR PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP DUES**

**THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HIDALGO**

I, do hereby state to the best of my knowledge and belief the following:

1. The association or organization is not affiliated with a labor organization;
2. Neither the association or organization nor an employee of the association or organization directly or indirectly influences or attempts to influence the outcome of any legislation pending before the legislature.
3. The association or organization may provide information for a member of the legislature to appear before a legislative committee at the request of the committee or member of the legislature to provide information related to County Government, but not to attempt to influence legislation; and
4. Neither the association nor organization directly or indirectly contributes any money, services, or other valuable thing to a political campaign or endorses a candidate or group of candidates for public office.

SIGNATURE: _____

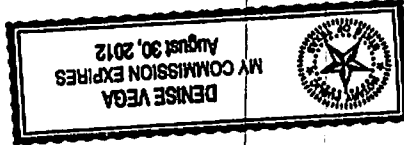
TITLE: _____

[Handwritten Signature]
[Handwritten Title]

DATE: _____

03/12/2012

Before me Denise Vega, a Notary Public, appeared David Austin and on his/her oath deposed and stated that the facts as set forth in the above affidavit to be true and correct in every respect.



(SEAL)

[Handwritten Signature]
NOTARY PUBLIC IN AND FOR
THE STATE OF TEXAS

AUTHORITY TO OBTAIN AFFIDAVIT: LGC § 113.064(b)
AUTHORITY TO PAY MEMBERSHIP DUES: LGC § 89.002