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Dear Fellow Border Area Stakeholder:

In this time of increasing activities and concerns about the international border, I am writing to you about the creation of an important new citizens group, the Border Land Association.

I have personally joined the Border Land Association, which is seeking better ways for border landowners and citizens to assist our government in formulating efficient border security practices, which respect and enhance the security and livelihoods of border residents.

Border landowners and the United States Border Patrol (USBP) have for many years worked hand-in-hand in protecting the security of our international borders. Due to changes within USBP, and unprecedented growth within that agency, there are new challenges that have eroded the once mutually cooperative relationship between the USBP and landowners.

The greatest problem that needs to be addressed is that the USBP does not focus its resources to prevent illegal entry at the United States' border. Instead, the USBP utilizes a federal law that allows the USBP to enter into private property within a 25-mile zone from the border and uses this zone to try to chase down and catch the illegal aliens after they cross the border.

The Border Land Association is dedicated to seeing that our nation's security resources are concentrated where they will do the most good, on the international border, rather than in a loosely configured patrol that turns border property into a "chasing ground." The one thing that all illegal aliens have in common is that they cross the international border and that is where the USBP's efforts should be focused.

The end result of this policy is that USBP agents are seriously interfering with the private property rights of border area landowners and other border area stakeholders. Incidents range from USBP agents cutting private locks, constructing roads and damaging property to activities that threaten fever tick infestations from USBP horse patrols.

The Border Land Association has been at the forefront of working with other associations, including the Texas and Southwestern Cattleraisers' Association, to ensure that the USBP complies with the carefully administered protocols of the Animal Plant Health Inspection Service of the USDA. Increased unregulated horse patrols threaten to expose private landowners to various stages of quarantine.

The Border Land Association has also made significant inroads with representatives in Washington, D.C. and has been promised a seat at the table during the continued drafting of border and

immigration related legislation. The Association will be working to ensure that the USBP's resources are focused on the border, and will be working to protect the private property rights of border area landowners and other stakeholders.

Additionally, the Border Land Association's representatives are working to create a new era of cooperation with the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The creation of the DHS provides a unique opportunity to reexamine, restructure and fundamentally reform the policies of the USBP to make it more conducive to the participation of the citizens it is sworn to protect.

With your membership and support, the Border Land Association will continue to work with leaders in Congress and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to ensure the recognition of the rights of landowners and others, and to improve the security of our borders. We will be seeking:

- Changes in the laws, regulations and USBP operating procedures to secure our borders by focusing our resources on the borders and to recognize private property rights;
- Education of USBP and DHS of those rights and how to respect those rights without interfering with USBP or national security goals;
- A landowners advisory body with DHS' Bureau of Customs and Border Security to continue to advise and act as a liaison between landowners and the federal government on issues of concern to both.

Your membership and support is crucial to the Border Land Association in these efforts. Please join me as a new member of the Border Land Association today.

Sincerely,



Dolph Briscoe

p.s. Please complete the enclosed membership application in our brochure and join the Border Land Association today!