



GOVERNOR GREG ABBOTT

June 16, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

Securing the international border is one of the federal government's most fundamental responsibilities. Your sworn duty to faithfully execute the laws includes an obligation to enforce immigration laws to ensure the safety of all Americans, including Texans. One strategy that prior Administrations have used to fulfill that duty is to build barriers, fences, and walls on the border, including the Texas border.

The federal government used condemnation powers to take property from Texans for the purpose of building a border wall. Once you took office, however, your Administration made clear the federal government will not move forward with building the border wall at this time.

I write now to demand that you immediately return to Texans any land taken by the federal government but not used for building a border wall.

Texas stands ready to build the wall in Texas, and we have begun the process of hiring a manager to oversee that project. We will look first at using state property and donated private property. We will also visit with Texans whose land was taken by the federal government to determine if they will allow the State of Texas to build a wall on their land.

I have written to you and Vice President Harris on numerous occasions about the substantial surge in illegal border crossings that your Administration is allowing, and about the escalating humanitarian crisis it is causing at the Texas border. Your immigration policies are making Texas "ground zero" for a dramatic influx of unlawful immigrants, but all of America will suffer from the flood of dangerous drugs, human traffickers, and convicted criminals that may cause harm in other states after entering through Texas.

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Though my calls for action have gone unanswered, again I urge you and your Administration to resume enforcing immigration laws and reinstate sound policies like the “Remain in Mexico” program and the robust use of Title 42 authorities. By immediately returning any Texas property that can be used to build a border wall, you will enable the State of Texas to work toward a more secure border that keeps not just Texans, but all Americans, safer.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Greg Abbott". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Greg Abbott
Governor

GA:jok