



## **TWA Border Security Resolution**

*Approved by TWA Executive Committee, February 1, 2012*

Whereas, a silent war is expanding, and a constant battle is occurring along the border where Mexico and, particularly, the Northern Mexican states are experiencing horrible atrocities at the hands of the drug cartels, where most estimates put the death toll in Mexico over 50,000<sup>1</sup> in the last 5 years, and the real issues facing border residents, urban and rural, is cartel violence, illegal drugs, illegal weapons, human trafficking, kidnapping, theft, and extortion; and

Whereas, the violence and its effects are spilling over into the U.S. and Texas at an increasing rate, and cartels are invading Texas farms and ranches, threatening the lives of our fellow citizens, and in real human terms leads to the loss of liberty and property without justice and due process by Texas Wildlife Association (TWA) members who live on or near the border and are being impacted across Texas and the rest of the United States, (DOJ report: “Mexican-based TCOs were operating in more than a thousand U.S. cities during 2009 and 2010”<sup>2</sup>); and

Whereas, a recent report by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security estimated up to \$240 billion<sup>3</sup> has been lost in the Mexican economy due to drug violence, and this effect is highly localized in violent areas like Juarez, Acapulco, and Nuevo Laredo, disrupting trade and harming Texas and U.S. commerce; and

Whereas, the increases in U.S. and Mexican federal presence in the cities and urban areas along the border have pushed more illicit trade into the rural areas of both countries, adding an overwhelming strain on limited rural resources of Texas counties (and particularly border and near border counties) to combat transnational criminals and detain illegal immigrants (Governor Perry asked for \$350 million in federal reimbursement just for the costs of imprisoning illegal immigrants<sup>4</sup>) and threatens our rural property owners, many of whom are TWA members; and

Whereas, this silent war jeopardizes our nation's food supply since Mexico has been forced to abandon eradication and control efforts for fever tick, boll weevil, and bovine tuberculosis along the Northern border; and this presents the dual challenge of increasing disease/pest vectors in the U.S. while adding to the strain of disease, and food security is placed squarely on our TWA landowners, as well as state/federal resources; and

Whereas, in locations where rural enforcement and public resources are severely compromised or cease to exist, private land owners across the state are forced to secure their own property, and many Texas landowners within 100 miles or more of the border are arming employees who are constantly in harm's way and families are forced to self-impose curfews to avoid going out of the house at night or on property near the border or common illegal trafficking travel routes at all, forcing many families to make the decision to move off their own ranches and out of their homes; and

Whereas, landowners are being severely impacted economically, with property values decreasing<sup>5</sup>, increased security expenses, and many have suffered substantially-reduced incomes (members report losses in hunting lease revenues), and can no longer safely manage properties and perform routine wildlife and habitat management practices that enhance conservation of our wildlife resources;

Now therefore, be it resolved, the Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), whose members are landowners, conservationists, land managers, and biologists who own or control almost 40 million acres of Texas private lands, demands that the President, Congress and Washington's political leadership acknowledge this silent war by drug cartels is an imminent threat and critical national security issue and immediately assign the appropriate resources to combat and defeat our nation's enemies; and

Further, be it resolved, TWA takes exception to statements by local, state or federal officials and office holders who falsely claim the border is secure and that present security efforts have made these areas safe, particularly in our rural areas, while the silent war by drug cartels is expanding into Texas and the U.S., endangering brave Texas families whose lives are in danger, their families threatened, and who deal daily with fear, loss of property and liberty in what has become a war zone; and

Further, be it resolved, TWA is extremely thankful for our local law enforcement, county sheriff staffs, Texas DPS, Texas Rangers, Texas game wardens, U.S. Border Patrol, FBI, ATF and DEA agents for their valiant and heroic efforts under the circumstances and limitations; however, TWA condemns federal policies that release trespassers and criminal elements through current immigration procedures without real penalties, punishment or deterrents; and

Further, be it resolved, TWA encourages immediate action by the President and Congress to enhance rural border security directly on the border – at the river – and substantially increase enforcement and surveillance assistance to rural landowners and their families in the area at least 100 miles or more from the border, while respecting private property and not ceding any U.S. soil and sovereignty; and

Further, be it resolved, TWA believes “strict” immigration reform legislation is integral to border security and that it is critical for the best interests of the Texas and U.S. economies, particularly concerning farming, ranching and wildlife operations, and that immigration reform must feature a legal framework that strictly includes the following features:

- (i) it is reasonably capable of implementation, a transparent and non-threatening process, and reasonably acceptable to foreign workers, while providing a security process on this side of the border to screen, identify and track legal and acceptable workers, sorting them in the daylight, rather than in the brush at night;
- (ii) it encourages workers and their families to maintain their naturalization and homes in their Countries of origin;
- (iii) it allows reasonable access between the United States and Countries of origin for work and return;
- (iv) it allows the documented foreign workers to lawfully hold jobs in the United States, while paying United States taxes; and
- (v) it continues to provide a legal path to citizenship, but will not create an amnesty program related to citizenship for those legally or illegally in the U.S.

Further, be it resolved, TWA strongly encourages all interested and affected parties to report incidents of trespass, theft, and human, weapons and/or drug trafficking to law enforcement immediately and report all incidents to [www.ProtectYourTexasBorder.com](http://www.ProtectYourTexasBorder.com)

<sup>1</sup> Congressman Michael McCaul, February, 2012.

<sup>2</sup> US DOJ, 2011 Drug Assessment:  
<http://www.justice.gov/ndic/pubs44/44849/44849p.pdf>

<sup>3</sup> Department of Homeland Security, Office of Intelligence and Analysis published Assessment on Mexico: Drug trafficker-Spawned Violence Hampering Some Regional Economic Activity, September 16, 2011.

<sup>4</sup> Governor Rick Perry, August, 2011.

<sup>5</sup> KRGV News, Rio Grande Valley News: <http://www.krgv.com/news/the-journey-selling-the-farm/>