

**Chairman Ned Norris Jr., Tohono O'odham Nation  
San Xavier, Chukut Kuk, Hickywan and Sells Districts, Tohono O'odham Nation  
Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas • American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona • American  
Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico • American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, Border Rights  
Center • Center for Biological Diversity • Defenders of Wildlife • Earthjustice • Earthworks  
Friends of the Earth U.S. • GreenLatinos • Hispanic Federation • Immigration Hub • League  
of Conservation Voters • MoveOn • National Immigrant Justice Center • Natural Resources  
Defense Council • Sierra Club • Southern Border Communities Coalition • Texas Civil Rights  
Project • The Wilderness Society • Washington Office on Latin America**

November 17, 2020

President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.  
Biden-Harris Transition  
Washington, DC 20001

**Re: Halt Border Wall Construction on January 20th**

Dear President-elect Joseph R. Biden Jr.,

We write to ask you to take immediate action to order the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Defense, and Department of Justice to halt all construction and land acquisition efforts for Trump's border wall on your first day in office. Every day, border wall construction continues to desecrate Indigenous sacred sites, destroy federally protected wildlands, and rip border communities and family homes in two. There is great urgency in stopping border wall construction. Each day brings more irreparable damage.

The construction of Trump's wall has forever harmed Indigenous sacred sites, ancestral lands and burial grounds. Last month, members of the Tohono O'odham Nation were tear-gassed and shot with rubber bullets while peacefully protesting the desecration of their lands. Tohono O'odham Tribal Chairman Ned Norris Jr. called border wall construction "no different from DHS building a 30-foot wall along Arlington Cemetery," and demanded the Trump administration cease all construction activity immediately. A clear directive must be sent to all employees of the executive branch that these violent actions against Indigenous peoples and their homelands are immoral, and must cease without delay.

Hundreds of miles of Trump's wall have been built outside the scope of environmental law, inflicting permanent damage on wildlife refuges, national park lands, and wilderness areas. Wildlife corridors have been cut off, critical habitat for endangered species has been dynamited, and protected plant species have been bulldozed. Millions of gallons of precious desert groundwater have been recklessly sucked out of the ground for the wall's concrete foundation. Rare desert springs are drying up and endangered species are now on the brink of extinction.

The border wall is separating vibrant communities and wasting billions of taxpayer dollars — including billions in military funding illegally diverted for construction. Meanwhile, the Department of Justice is aggressively bringing eminent domain actions against countless families along the border, forcing them to fight legal battles to save their homes and land.

All of this can be stopped the day you take office — halt wall construction, cancel existing construction contracts, and stop all land acquisition and eminent domain proceedings. These simple, immediate actions will spare Indigenous sacred sites from destruction, save wildlife from extinction, protect our public lands, and help countless families stay in their homes.

Sincerely,

1. African American Ministers In Action
2. American Civil Liberties Union of Arizona
3. American Civil Liberties Union of New Mexico
4. American Civil Liberties Union of Texas, Border Rights Center
5. Arivaca Wall Resisters
6. Arizona Trail Association
7. Arizona Youth Climate Coalition
8. Asian Americans Advancing Justice
9. BORDER ANGELS
10. Border Patrol Victims Network
11. Borderlands Restoration Network
12. Bridges Faith Initiative
13. California Wilderness Coalition
14. Carrizo Comecrudo Tribe of Texas
15. Center for Biological Diversity
16. Chairman Ned Norris Jr., Tohono O'odham Nation
17. Chispa Arizona
18. Chukut Kuk District, Tohono O'odham Nation
19. Chula Vista Partners in Courage
20. Church World Service
21. Cooperative Baptist Fellowship
22. Defenders of Wildlife
23. Earthjustice
24. Earthworks
25. End Streamline Coalition
26. Environmental Protection Information Center
27. Evangelical Lutheran Church in America
28. Fellowship Southwest
29. FIRE Fight for Immigrants and Refugees Everywhere
30. Friends of Friendship Park
31. Friends of the Earth U.S.
32. Frontera de Cristo
33. Gila Resources Information Project
34. Great Old Broads for Wilderness
35. Green Valley Samaritans
36. GreenLatinos
37. Haitian Bridge Alliance
38. Harvard TPS Coalition

39. Healing Hands Medical Mission
40. Healing the Border Project
41. Hia-Ced Hemajkam, LLC
42. Hickywan District, Tohono O'odham Nation
43. Hispanic Federation
44. Hope Border Institute
45. Immigration Hub
46. Indigenous Alliance Without Borders
47. Insights El Paso Science Center
48. Instituto Power
49. Justice Action Center
50. Klamath Forest Alliance
51. La Puerta Waco
52. Laredo Immigrant Alliance
53. Latin America Working Group
54. Leadership Conference of Women Religious
55. League of Conservation Voters
56. Madrean Archipelago Wildlife Center
57. Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns
58. Migrant Rights Collective
59. MoveOn
60. National Butterfly Center
61. National Immigrant Justice Center
62. Natural Resources Defense Council
63. Network in Solidarity with the People of Guatemala
64. NM café
65. No Border Wall Laredo Coalition
66. North American Butterfly Association
67. Northern Jaguar Project
68. Ocean Conservation Research
69. Order of Ecumenical Franciscans
70. Order of Secular Franciscans
71. Pax Christi El Paso
72. Priests of the Sacred Heart, US Province
73. Rio Grande International Study Center
74. Rio Grande Valley Equal Voice Network
75. Rio Grande Valley No Border Wall Coalition
76. San Diego Immigrant Rights Consortium
77. San Miguel PEN
78. San Xavier District, Tohono O'odham Nation
79. Sells District, Tohono O'odham Nation
80. Sierra Club
81. Sisters of Mercy Laredo Texas
82. Sisters of Mercy of the Americas Justice Team
83. Sky Island Alliance
84. Social Justice Education Project

85. South Bay People Power
86. South County Peace and Justice
87. Southern Border Communities Coalition
88. Southwest Environmental Center
89. St. Mark's Presbyterian Church
90. Texas Civil Rights Project
91. The Resurrection Project
92. The Wilderness Society
93. Union for Reform Judaism
94. Washington Office on Latin America
95. Webb County Heritage Foundation
96. Western Watersheds Project
97. Wildlands Network
98. Win Without War
99. Witness at the Border