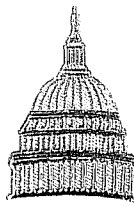


February 19, 2018



RAÚL M. GRIJALVA  
UNITED STATES CONGRESSMAN

Chairman Richard Elias  
Pima County Board of Supervisors  
Pima County Administration Building  
130 W. Congress, First Floor  
Tucson, AZ 85701

Dear Chairman Elias,

I am adding my opposition to the acceptance of the Stonegarden grant by Pima County. This funding, while tempting in terms of some fiscal support for law enforcement, carries burdens and uncertainties for Pima County that should override any limited fiscal support by the Federal Government.

The ongoing division that the Trump administration has inflamed over immigration reform, DACA, refugees and TPS (Temporary Protected Status) Program, continues to lack any Congressional legislative relief or support from the Trump administration for a bipartisan solution. The Trump administration and the Department of Homeland Security have an enforcement-only strategy involving primarily detention and deportation sweeps. As this strategy escalates, so will the demands by the Department of Homeland Security to local and state grant recipients to be active participants in that strategy, exposing Pima County taxpayers to increased fiscal and legal liabilities as a result of the partnership with DHS.

As you know, the Trump administration is pressuring Congress for funding to build a 25 billion dollar wall, add 10,000 additional ICE and Border Patrol Agents and pay for 10,000 new detention spaces in private for-profit prisons. This demand comes at a time when DHS has over 20 billion dollars in border enforcement funding, and the Border Patrol/ICE is the largest federal law enforcement force in the nation. The force in the Tucson sector is one of the largest as well.

I fully appreciate the fiscal considerations that you must factor in your decision. The consideration of community relations, legal liabilities and becoming a willing partner in a Trump strategy that can only lead to division and conflict is not a long-term benefit for Pima County. If the situation was such that the Trump administration was seeking comprehensive and fair solutions to immigration and security, such an approach would almost certainly cause the Stonegarden grants to be unnecessary. By accepting the funding at this time after all that has been said, done and threatened by the Trump administration, the Board of Supervisors will implicitly partner with the Trump strategy. The issue of safety for Pima County residents is paramount, involving the law enforcement professionals of Pima County as enforcers of a narrow and biased policy regarding border security will ignore the real complexities of the

borderlands and only embolden the Trump Administration and DHS to continue unabated in the current enforcement-only strategy.

By rejecting the funding, Pima County sends a powerful message that its leaders seek smart security for the border, comprehensive reform and protects the rights of all residents. Given this time in history, your stand against Trump's strategy is an important voice. The rejection of the Stonegarden grant is correct from a fiscal and, most certainly, a moral imperative. I thank you for your attention and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raul M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Raul M. Grijalva  
Member of Congress