



RICHARD ELÍAS
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DISTRICT 5

PIMA COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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PIMA COUNTY

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 22, 2017
TO: Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board
FROM: Richard Elías, District Five Supervisor *R. Elías*
REGARDING: Item for the June 6, 2017 agenda

MAY 22 11 40 AM '17 POC CLK OF ED *df*

Please add the following to the June 6, 2017 agenda:

Resolution

A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO BUILD A WALL ALONG THE UNITED STATES BORDER WITH MEXICO. (District 5)

Thank you

RESOLUTION NO. ____

**A RESOLUTION IN OPPOSITION TO THE EXECUTIVE ORDER OF
PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP TO BUILD A WALL ALONG THE
UNITED STATES BORDER WITH MEXICO**

WHEREAS, the Mexico-United States border region is a beautiful, diverse, and unique place where people and wildlife from north and south live side-by-side in relative peace and harmony among some of our continent's most cherished and spectacular landscapes, and

WHEREAS, President Donald Trump proposed with Executive Order 13767 to build a wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border and to increase dramatically the already significant militarization of the border region, and

WHEREAS, the Mexico-U.S. border is more secure from illegal acts now than at any time in the past, apprehensions of unauthorized border crossers from the south are at historic lows, and border communities are among the safest in the United States, and

WHEREAS, the tens of billions of taxpayer dollars that would be spent as a result of this Executive Order should be invested instead on health care, education, affordable housing, repairing our crumbling infrastructure, and other priorities that will provide the tangible benefits of alleviating poverty, creating meaningful jobs, and improving the health and well-being of everyone in this country, and

WHEREAS, the existing border walls, fences, and barriers are frequently breached and circumvented, and are subject to flooding and other natural damages requiring enormous maintenance costs to taxpayers – many security experts say they have proven to be the most-expensive and least-effective means of securing the border, and

WHEREAS, the existing border structures and militarization have created a human rights crisis in the border region with very significant negative social, cultural, and economic ramifications for border communities and that has resulted in more than 6,000 migrant deaths in the borderlands and a detention-housing disaster that private-prison profiteers exploit at public expense, and

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WHEREAS, in February 2017, the Tohono O’odham Nation Legislative Council adopted Resolution 17-053 and the National Congress of American Indians adopted Resolution #ECWS-17-002, both of which oppose the construction of a border wall on tribal lands without the consent of affected tribal authorities and find that a continuous wall on the border would: further divide historic tribal lands and communities; prevent tribal members from making traditional crossings for domestic, ceremonial, and religious purposes; prevent wildlife from conducting migrations essential for survival and a healthy existence; injure endangered species and culturally significant plants; militarize tribes’ pastoral borderlands; and disturb or destroy tribal archaeology, sacred sites, and ancestral remains, and

WHEREAS, more than three dozen U.S. laws were waived to facilitate construction of existing border structures, precluding review and analysis of their impacts to environmental and archaeological resources along the border – including Native American sacred sites, protected public lands, unique and often rare wildlife, and streams and other watercourses, and

WHEREAS, the existing border structures have caused substantial environmental damage, including catastrophic floods, erosion, degradation of public lands and facilities, blockage of normal wildlife migration corridors, and destruction of critically important wildlife habitat, all of which has contributed to harm of hundreds of border-region species, some of them endangered species such as the jaguar and ocelot, and

WHEREAS, a border wall is an offensive and damaging symbol of fear and division that will increase tensions with Mexico, one of the United States’ largest trading partners and a neighbor with which border-region communities inextricably are linked physically, culturally, and economically,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors hereby denounces Executive Order 13767 for construction of a border wall and additional militarization of the border region;

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Pima County Board of Supervisors calls instead for a thorough and comprehensive analysis of the cost, effectiveness, necessity, and consequences of U.S. border-security policy and this Executive Order.

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Passed by the Board of Supervisors of Pima County, this ____ day of _____, 2017.

Sharon Bronson, Chair
Pima County Board of Supervisors

ATTEST:

Julie Castañeda, Clerk of the Board

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Thomas Weaver, Deputy County Attorney