

Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association

Box 423, Arivaca, AZ 85601

Coronado National Forest Road Construction Project

February 2, 2014

P. O. Box 643

Flagstaff, AZ 86002-0643

Subject: Coronado National Forest Road Construction Project

Dear Federal Officers:

The Board of Directors of the Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association voted to respond to the Border Patrol's January 3, 2014 request for comments with respect to the improvement and construction of roads on the Bell Ranch, the Kay ranch and the Robinson Ranch. The Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association (SACPA) serves ranchers in Pima, Pinal and Santa Cruz Counties.

We are in agreement with the proposal to build new roads on the Bell (Sycamore Canyon) and Kay (Fresnal Wash) ranches. **However, we are seriously concerned that the proposed roads on the Robinson Tres Bellotas ranch (Cross S allotment-Cantinas Reservoir) pass right in the front yards of the Robinson's houses and barns. The road should be located adjacent to a wall to be constructed on the Roosevelt easement at the international Boundary.**

To actually secure the international boundary between Nogales, Arizona and Sasabe, Arizona, a wall or fence **must be completed** to fill the existing 25-mile gap between Nogales and Sasabe, which is currently only a 4-strand, unpatrolled, barbed wire fence which ranchers have to maintain in order to keep their cattle in the United States and Mexican cattle in Mexico. This easily-cut cattle fence does nothing to stop drug traffic.

The real problem is that the Border Patrol strategy set at the national level is leaving border ranchers exposed to an invasion of Cartel-managed drug packers. The current strategy of focusing on apprehension 5, 10, 20 even 100 or more miles north of the border is being exploited by the Cartel. Hence, the Robinson's houses and entire ranch are located in no-man's land, subject to constant trespass, to threats and reality of violence, and to burglaries. The Robinsons and other similarly situated rural border residents deserve the same protection and respect as other citizens of our country (equal protection constitutional clause).

The current Border Patrol strategy is clearly ineffective at stopping the entry of massive quantities of drugs into the United States, a growing percent of which, according to reports we hear, uses exactly the corridor that passes through the Robinson's ranch and then on through ranches owned and operated by other members of SACPA. Effective interdiction of Cartel trans-border operations will not happen until the Border Patrol changes the strategy to securing the border at the international boundary. To secure the border at the international boundary, the Border Patrol needs to complete the wall and **intensively** patrol the wall. The Border Patrol also desperately needs **forward operations bases, roads to the border and along the wall** and technology such as **cameras, sensors and communication towers**.

Roads along the wall should be placed as close to the wall as practical and manned at the wall by Border Patrol agents twenty-four hours a day and seven days a week. No road should pass right in front of the Robinson's houses and barns since it would result in exposing the Robinsons to greater danger and violence. As a consequence, please locate a road south of the Robinson's private deeded land next to a real, effective wall on the Roosevelt Easement.

Additional benefits of a wall include the fact that it would prevent infectious diseases in Mexican livestock from being transferred to United States livestock. Furthermore, a gap-filling fence would dramatically reduce the number of cattle being stolen by the drug traffickers who cross on horses and mules, drop their drug loads and then quickly return--with American cattle--back into Mexico.

A road on the Roosevelt easement would minimize high speed chases and/or shootouts. Illegal trafficking whether it be people or narcotics would not be guided to our very doorstep with hijacking actions, Cartel violence, and essential USBP responses endangering family members , children, employees or livestock.

We have great respect for the Border Patrol agents we meet and greet every day, however, if the Border Patrol does not change its current policy to a strategy of securing the border at the international boundary, then Congress should rename the Border Patrol and call it what it currently is: the Interior Patrol.

The following is a basic resolution that has been passed by the National Public Lands Council, Pima Natural Resource Conservation District, Pima Farm Bureau, Arizona Farm Bureau, Arizona Association of Natural Resource Conservation Districts and the Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association (with minimal changes made by each of the aforementioned groups):

**Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association: Securing the United States-Mexico
Border at the Border**

Whereas, there is a tragic human cost to would-be workers, especially women, entering the United States which includes traveling as much as a week across our deserts, dying of thirst, suffering with other medical issues, rapes, coyote abuse and bandits;

Whereas, there is monumental environmental damage currently being permitted by allowing crossers to tramp across National Forests, Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness areas, National Conservation areas, and private ranches since current Border Patrol "choke-point strategy" results in an average of 8.5 pounds of trash left by each crosser and miles of paths beaten out through environmentally sensitive habitat;

Whereas, thousands of U.S. citizens living between the border and attempted apprehension sites 5, 10, even 100 or more miles north of the border are currently living in no-man's land, subject to violence and burglaries;

Whereas, Mexican Cartel scouts are on our mountain tops inside the United States north of the international border and are guiding "human mules" carrying destructive and very socially costly drugs into the U.S. through hundreds of square miles of southern Arizona currently *de facto* ceded to their operational control;

Whereas, the Government Accountability Office estimates that the Border Patrol apprehends only about 64% of the undocumented border crossers and a *Los Angeles Times* report reveals that an analysis of Predator Drone Vader surveillance data showed "Border Patrol Agents apprehended fewer than half of the foreign migrants and smugglers;"

Be it therefore resolved that the Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Association advocate that the current Border Patrol strategy of allowing druggers and undocumented immigrants to travel into the United States five to one hundred miles prior to attempts to apprehend the crossers must be changed, and

Be it further resolved that the Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Association support Congressional action to exempt the Border Patrol from the multi-year delays resulting from current environmental law compliance processes on federal land to enable effective patrolling of rural areas of the actual border and construction of needed infrastructure within a one-mile strip immediately north and adjacent to the southwestern border in order to secure the border at the border.

Respectfully,

Jim Chilton, President, Southern Arizona Cattlemen's Protective Association

CC: Commander Self, CBP
Chief Padilla, CBP
Roger San Martin, CBP