

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

October 18, 2023

President Joe Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write with regard to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) notice of determination to begin construction of the border wall along the U.S. southern border. This acknowledgement of the law will help deter illegal immigration. However, less than 24 hours after the posting of the notice, this administration has sought to walk back this common-sense initiative. While technology can be deployed as a useful tool on our southern border, it does not act as a physical deterrent that is required, both under the law and in the full reality of the crises that continue. Despite the administration's messaging on this issue, construction of a border wall is sorely needed as communities and elected officials across the country demand a more robust response to illegal immigration. We hope that this decision signals the beginning of a bipartisan consensus on the need for more physical deterrents on our southern border.

In light of Secretary Mayorkas' announcement, we write to urge your administration to ensure that more land mass is covered by the border wall and for you to rescind and resubmit your August 2023 supplemental funding request to Congress to specifically include additional resources for construction. Under the current proposal, approximately 20 miles of border wall will be established. However, more must be done to deter unfettered illegal immigration, which is continuing at a record-breaking pace. If we are to ensure the safety of American communities, more miles of border wall must be constructed.

In August, your administration sought supplemental funding for a variety of purposes, including to "manage [the] Southwest border safely and effectively." This funding request specifically cited the need for additional resources as it relates to, among other things, "migration surges," "Shelter and Services Program grants," "non-intrusive inspection technology," and "counter-drug activities related to fentanyl." This funding request did not include funds for border wall construction along the U.S.-Mexico border, despite the Secretary's subsequent decision to ramp up construction after years of inaction and reports of the Secretary auctioning off parts of the border wall that went unused during the prior administration.

Your administration's decision to continue construction of the Trump Administration's physical border wall is a step in combating "high illegal entry" rates. With that, more must be done. We urge you to expand border wall construction efforts along the U.S.-Mexico border. Further, we additionally urge you to resubmit your August 2023 supplemental funding request to

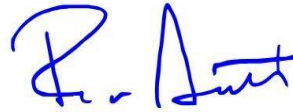
Congress to specifically include additional resources for physical border deterrents, taking into account the need for more land mass to be covered.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We look forward to your prompt response.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Rick Scott
U.S. Senator



Tommy Tuberville
U.S. Senator



Mike Braun
U.S. Senator



Kevin Cramer
U.S. Senator



Dan Sullivan
U.S. Senator



Cynthia Lummis
U.S. Senator



Katie Boyd Britt
U.S. Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
U.S. Senator



Mitt Romney
U.S. Senator



Steve Daines
U.S. Senator



Deb Fischer
U.S. Senator



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator