



STATE OF TEXAS

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May 2, 2014

Steve McCraw
Director
Texas Department of Public Safety
P. O. Box 4087
Austin, Texas 78773-0001

Dear Director McCraw:

As you know, a porous and unsecured border with Mexico undermines public safety as it poses a homeland security threat to Texas and the United States. According to recent Texas threat assessments, six of the eight major Mexican cartels continue to maintain command and control networks in Texas to support their drug and human smuggling operations into and throughout Texas and the nation. Mexican cartels also work with transnational gangs to carry out their ruthless crimes in Texas, Mexico, and throughout the United States. Cartel crimes in Texas include murders, kidnappings, extortions, child prostitution, sexual assaults, home invasions, vehicle pursuits, and smuggling of drugs, humans, weapons, and currency across the border.

Though the responsibility of securing our border should rest on the federal government alone, Texas must act to protect its residents when Washington fails to live up to its obligations. Accordingly, the State of Texas has made substantial investments in efforts to secure the Texas-Mexico border over the last decade. Last fall, Operation Strong Safety represented the culmination of these years of investment, leveraging everything from state-funded surveillance aircraft and armor-plated patrol boats to fusion centers and increased manpower. During this close-ended operation, Texas showed that it can effectively shut down its southern border to criminal trafficking.

In the face of evolving threats of drug and human trafficking and other transnational and cartel-related violence and crime, the State of Texas stands ready to build on Operation Strong Safety and take additional steps to further protect its citizens.

Director Steve McCraw
May 2, 2014
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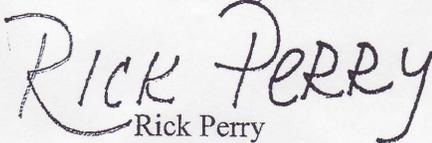
With this letter and with the approval of the Public Safety Commission, you are directed to plan and execute a 90-day surge operation of increased law enforcement in the border counties, beginning on or after September 1, 2014. To support the operation, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) may use any appropriated funds for fiscal year 2015 available to the agency, and this letter constitutes a commitment from the Governor's office and Legislative Budget Board to expedite the review and approval of any requests to exceed limits placed on appropriations transfers, capital budget, or full-time equivalents by the 2014-15 General Appropriations Act.

In conducting this border surge operation, DPS shall:

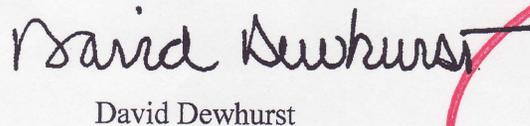
- Provide the operational plan, with a detailed cost estimate, to our offices at least 15 business days prior to the launch of the operation;
- Establish metrics and collect all necessary data to enable the measurement of the impact and effectiveness of the operation; and
- Report to our offices significant developments, events, or impacts resulting from surge operations at least every month during the operation.

Finally, DPS shall provide a full report to the 84th Legislature and the Governor's office on the operation's actual expenditures and its effectiveness across all established metrics, no later than March 15, 2015. This report will inform a decision by the 84th Legislature regarding any restoration of fiscal year 2015 funds reallocated within DPS to fund the operation. Please contact our offices for additional information on the format of this report. We thank you and your staff for your work in this effort.

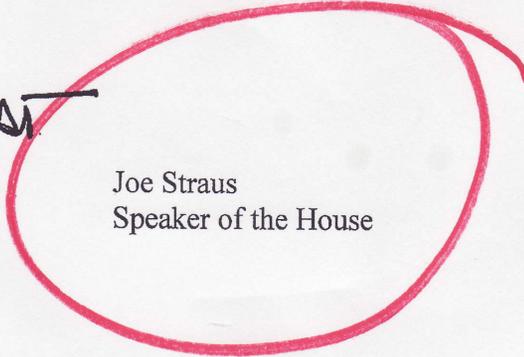
Sincerely,



Rick Perry
Governor



David Dewhurst
Lieutenant Governor


Joe Straus
Speaker of the House