

A RESOLUTION PERTAINING TO THE ONGOING CONSTRUCTION OF A WALL AND INCREASED MILITARIZATION ALONG THE US-MEXICO BORDER

WHEREAS, on January 25, 2017, President Donald Trump issued Executive Order 13767, "Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements," directing the construction of a contiguous 2,000-mile wall along the entire U.S.-Mexico border and dramatically increasing the militarization of the border region; ^[1] and

WHEREAS, On February 15, 2019, President Donald Trump declared a National Emergency Concerning the Southern Border of the United States (Proclamation 9844), citing the National Emergencies Act, and ordered the diversion of billions of dollars that had been appropriated to the U.S. Department of Defense for military construction; ^[2] and

WHEREAS, the United States-Mexico border region is a scenic, unique area with a rich diverse cultural history; and

WHEREAS, existing border walls have already caused substantial irreparable environmental damage, including flooding, erosion, destruction of private and public lands, fragmenting of critical wildlife habitats and migration patterns; ^[3] and

WHEREAS, in Arizona, to expedite the construction of the border wall more than forty laws have been waived to facilitate the construction of new border structures, destroying thousands of acres of natural habitat; and these waivers preclude review and analysis of the impacts to environmental, cultural, and archaeological resources -- including Native American burial and other sacred sites, protected public lands, endangered wildlife, protected plants, and waterways; ^[4] and

WHEREAS, the Tohono O'odham have lived in Arizona and northern Mexico since time immemorial and the Nation's reservation includes 62 miles of the international border. 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 the affected Tribal authorities and find that a contiguous border wall 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 healthy existence, injure endangered species and culturally significant plants; militarize Tribes' pastoral borderlands and disturb or destroy Tribal archaeology, sacred sites, and ancestral remains; ^[5] ^[6] and

WHEREAS, the border wall and increased militarization have created a human rights crisis that has caused severe social, cultural, and economic harm to both border communities and migrant families, yet nothing has been done to address the underlying humanitarian crises of refugees seeking asylum and families in desperate poverty seeking economic opportunity; ^[7] ¹ and

WHEREAS, the tens of billions of dollars expended on border wall construction and required for continuing maintenance could be invested in health care, quality education, housing, repairing our nation's infrastructure, and other priorities with benefits such as addressing poverty, increasing economic opportunities, and safeguarding the health and well-being of Americans. And, despite the high cost, border walls are frequently breached, circumvented, or knocked down in floods; and

WHEREAS, cities and counties across Arizona and Texas have passed or are in the process of passing resolutions against the border wall, including Flagstaff, Tucson, and Pima County ^[8]; and

WHEREAS, the Arizona Democratic Party values inclusivity and recognizes the immense economic, social, and cultural contributions that people of all national origins and immigration statuses have made to this country; ^[9] and

WHEREAS, Arizona Democrats are committed to protecting the rights of asylum applicants and providing basic standards of care for children in their custody. Democrats will work to help resolve the border detention crisis in a manner that comports with the Democratic values of solidarity, due process, and equal protection; ^[9] and

WHEREAS, Arizona Democrats affirm the inherent right of Arizona Tribes to self-government as well as the unique government-to-government relationship they share with the United States; ^[9] and

WHEREAS, Arizona shares over 370 miles of borderlands with Mexico, and Arizona Democrats are committed to stewardship of resources entrusted to us and protecting these resources to benefit current and future generations. ^[9]

WHEREAS, President Elect Joseph R Biden has pledged that “not another foot”¹⁰ of border wall will be built and Representative Raul Grijalva stated categorically that “It’s not just a question of stopping the wall; it’s correcting the damage that has been done”¹¹

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party amend its platform to reflect strong opposition to the destructive border wall and further continued militarization of the border region.

AND, BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Arizona Democratic Party calls for the Biden Administration to:

- 1) Issue an immediate Presidential Proclamation dissolving Executive Order 13767, “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements,” and
- 2) Issue an immediate Presidential Proclamation to rescind the false 2019 declaration of a national emergency at the southern border, and
- 3) Declare a moratorium on construction of the border wall pending official review of the federal project including costs, contractors, and alternative security means, and
- 4) End the waiver of public input and dozens of federal laws meant to protect public health, sacred sites, and lands which were pushed aside to rush construction of the wall.
- 5) Apologize to and adequately compensate Native American communities for the destruction of their burial and other sacred sites.
- 6) Review the environmental damage from extant wall and remove sections to eliminate the damage being caused by it.

1. <https://www.dhs.gov/publication/executive-order-13767>
2. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-proclamation-declaring-national-emergency-concerning-southern-border-united-states/>
3. <https://qz.com/1353798/the-us-mexico-border-walls-dangerous-costly-side-effect-enormous-floods/>
4. <https://www.npca.org/resources/3295-laws-waived-for-border-wall-construction>
5. <http://www.tonation-nsn.gov/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/17-053-Border-Security-and-Immigration-Enforcement-on-the-Tohono-Oodham-Nation.pdf>
6. <https://noborderwalls.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/09/ITAA-Resolution-0117-Opposition-to-Border-Wall.pdf>
7. <https://www.splcenter.org/our-issues/immigrant-justice/family-separation>
8. <http://noborderwalls.org/opposition/>
9. Arizona Democratic Party Platform
10. Austin American-Statesman, Dec. 6, 2020

11. Courthouse News Service, Nov. 25, 2020

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