

June 3, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20395

The Honorable Tom Vilsack  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Agriculture  
1400 Independence Avenue, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20250

The Honorable Deb Haaland  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Dear Secretaries Mayorkas, Vilsack and Haaland,

The undersigned state Farm Bureaus write to you today to share how the increase in illegal immigration is severely impacting farm and ranch families. We respectfully request your assistance in addressing this issue.

We have been listening to the concerns of our members and hearing how their livelihoods are being affected by the surge on the border. Farm and ranch families, many of whom have owned land for generations, are bearing the brunt of this unprecedented influx and have never seen a more dire situation.

They shared how their crops and property are being damaged, which in turn has caused financial hardship. For example, these landowners are experiencing cut fences, destroyed crops, compromised water sources, vandalism, litter on their property and more. Most importantly, the security and safety of these families are at stake given the current circumstances.

Human smugglers (Coyotes) are making false promises and doing whatever it takes to get paid and get away, including jeopardizing lives and property. In their desperation to evade law enforcement, Coyotes abandon people, steal vehicles, vandalize property and threaten the safety and livelihoods of farmers and ranchers. They are often criminals who smuggle drugs and firearms into the country, frequently leaving them on farmers' and ranchers' property, causing unrest for farm and ranch families.

While illegal immigration is often perceived primarily as a Southern border issue, communities across the country are being negatively impacted. If not properly addressed, these issues will only continue to multiply and escalate.

Local and state border security resources have been exhausted, leaving little help for farmers and ranchers. We respectfully request federal authorities work promptly to provide additional resources and enforce legal immigration to secure U.S. borders.

The current situation should not be acceptable to you or to any American. People are being treated as a disposable source of income, and landowners are living in fear while Coyotes reap a windfall from leaving people destitute. You must not allow this to continue.

On behalf of farm and ranch families and our communities, we urge you to recognize the crisis and take swift action.

Sincerely,

Arizona Farm Bureau Federation  
California Farm Bureau Federation  
New Mexico Farm & Livestock Bureau  
Texas Farm Bureau

American Farm Bureau Federation  
Alaska Farm Bureau  
Alabama Farmers Federation  
Arkansas Farm Bureau Federation  
Colorado Farm Bureau Federation  
Connecticut Farm Bureau Association, Inc.  
Delaware State Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Florida Farm Bureau Federation  
Georgia Farm Bureau Federation  
Hawaii Farm Bureau Federation  
Iowa Farm Bureau Federation  
Idaho Farm Bureau Federation  
Illinois Farm Bureau  
Indiana Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Kansas Farm Bureau  
Kentucky Farm Bureau Federation  
Louisiana Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
Maryland Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Maine Farm Bureau Association  
Michigan Farm Bureau  
Minnesota Farm Bureau Federation  
Missouri Farm Bureau Federation  
Mississippi Farm Bureau Federation  
Montana Farm Bureau Federation  
North Carolina Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
North Dakota Farm Bureau  
Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation  
New Hampshire Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
New Jersey Farm Bureau

Nevada Farm Bureau Federation  
New York Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Ohio Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
Oklahoma Farm Bureau  
Oregon Farm Bureau  
Pennsylvania Farm Bureau  
Puerto Rico Farm Bureau  
Rhode Island Farm Bureau Federation, Inc.  
South Carolina Farm Bureau Federation  
South Dakota Farm Bureau Federation  
Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation  
Utah Farm Bureau Federation  
Virginia Farm Bureau Federation  
Vermont Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Washington Farm Bureau  
Wisconsin Farm Bureau Federation  
West Virginia Farm Bureau, Inc.  
Wyoming Farm Bureau Federation