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FAIR is a nonprofit public interest organization working to end illegal immigration and to set levels of legal immigration that are consistent with the national interest.



July 19, 2016

The Honorable Randy Weber
 510 Cannon HOB
 Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Weber,

On behalf of the Federation for American Immigration Reform's (FAIR) 250,000 members and supporters nationwide, I am writing to thank you for introducing H.R. 5905, the Protect Our Southwestern States Enforcement (POSSE) Act. This important enforcement bill would ensure that critical Border Patrol stations are adequately staffed and cannot be closed by the Obama administration or a future one. The bill also provides for double-layered fencing along the entire southwest border. Combined, these provisions send a clear signal that border security is a top Congressional priority.

In July 2012, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) announced a plan to close nine interior Border Patrol stations, including six in Texas and one in California. At the time of the announcement, two of the stations – Amarillo and Lubbock – were among the top apprehenders of illegal aliens in the Big Bend Sector. In the Del Rio Sector, San Angelo and Abilene were also placed on the chopping block, even though they are located near Interstates 10 and 20 – two major corridors for drug and human trafficking. Further, the plan called to close three stations located in large interior cities with significant illegal alien populations: Dallas, San Antonio, and Riverside.

The proposed closures were immediately met with criticism from law enforcement officials, as they would leave large areas in two high-traffic border states vulnerable and further undermine the Border Patrol's effort to enforce laws and secure the nation. Interior Border Patrol stations act as a key second line of defense, and the Border Patrol agents in these strategic locations perform an invaluable service to local law enforcement officers who do not have the same authority to enforce federal laws pertaining to human trafficking and illegal immigration.

Several years ago, language was included in a government funding bill to specifically prohibit closure of the aforementioned Border Patrol stations in Texas. However, this fix was both temporary and limited in



scope – as it only prevented closures in one state for a given fiscal year. Without enactment of your bill, there is nothing to prevent the current administration or a future one from shutting down **any** southwest Border Patrol station – whether through outright closure or significant staffing cuts.

The Secure Fence Act of 2006, as passed, required the construction of a 700 mile double-layered fence along the southwest border. However, in 2008, an amendment was added to an appropriations bill that erased the requirement that the fence be double-layered. Current law now mandates only a single layer of reinforced fencing, while giving the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary the discretion to deploy additional layers, if deemed appropriate. As of today, only 36 miles of double-layered fencing have been constructed on the southwest border.

Simply, double-layered fencing is a proven means of stopping illegal border crossings and other illicit traffic. In 1996, Congress passed a bill requiring the construction of a double-layered fence in the San Diego corridor. By the end of the decade, apprehensions fell by 95%. In the Yuma Sector, where most of the remaining double-layer fencing stands, apprehensions have declined 96% since 2005. Your bill would bring the successes of San Diego and Yuma to the entire southwest border, by mandating the construction of effective double-layered fencing.

An investment in double-layered fencing now will result in significant taxpayer savings as the southwest border is secured. The cost of illegal immigration to American taxpayers is steep. FAIR's most recent investigation found that illegal aliens cost American taxpayers \$113 billion every year. If enacted, your bill will drastically reduce the financial burden of illegal immigration on taxpayers as we eliminate one of the major avenues of illegal migration.

For the aforementioned reasons, FAIR applauds you for introducing H.R. 5905. If this legislation is considered on the house floor, FAIR will include the vote in our voting report.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Stein".

Dan Stein
President