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Washington, DC 20515-0307

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April 9, 2018

The Honorable Doug Ducey
Governor of Arizona
State Capitol
1700 W. Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Governor Ducey,

I am writing to express my strong concerns over agreeing to President Trump's request to deploy the United States (U.S.) National Guard to the U.S. – Mexico border. I'm sure you share my satisfaction in knowing that our border regions are some of the safest communities in the United States. According to state and federal data, including FBI data, violent crime rates in many border areas are much lower than interior areas in the U.S. Residents and tourist alike should and can feel welcome and safe in Arizona. A grandiose deployment of the National Guard to the border area gives a misleading perception of our community and risks vital cooperation from Mexico on immigration and security issues.

While, deploying the National Guard to the southern border is not unprecedented, these deployments were wasteful and ineffective to an area where the U.S. already spends billions of dollars every year on security. For Fiscal Year 2018 Congress appropriated over \$40 billion dollars in funding to the Department of Homeland Security that will be used towards border security. In fact, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, CBP, is one of the world's largest law enforcement organizations and the federal government spends more on Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and CBP than all other federal law enforcement agencies combined.ⁱ Additionally, the federal government has already met the border security benchmarks established in the 2006, 2007 and 2010ⁱⁱ bipartisan comprehensive immigration-reform legislative proposals, and last year the Department of Homeland Security released a report that stated, "with respect to border enforcement outputs, available data indicate that the southwest land border is more difficult to illegally cross today than ever before."ⁱⁱⁱ

President Trump claims the southern border is experiencing high numbers of undocumented immigrants, but migration at our southern border is at a 45-year low.^{iv} During 2017, many of those apprehended at the southern border were children and families. These individuals are presenting themselves at U.S. Port of Entries seeking asylum, which is not a crime. When someone without the required immigration documentation presents themselves at a Port of Entry and expresses fear of persecution, torture, or returning to their country of origin and requests to apply for asylum, they are afforded a credible fear interview as established by U.S. immigration law and consistent with international humanitarian agreements.^v Treating individuals seeking safety from the dire conditions in their home countries as a national security threat irresponsibly diverts resources from actual threats to our nation. The U.S. National Guard is not trained to

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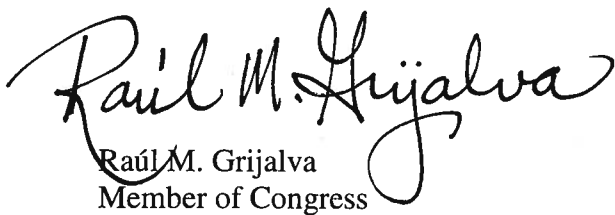
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enforce U.S. immigration laws and cannot have physical contact with undocumented immigrants at the southern border.

Governor Ducey, granting the deployment of the U.S. National Guard to the U.S. – Mexico border is a mistake and an ineffective and wasteful use of U.S. military resources. We should instead focus on modernizing the infrastructure and technology at our ports of entries to ensure security and economic cooperation without further militarizing border communities. The state of Arizona must not be used as a political pawn that will leave visitors questioning the safety of our state. Arizona has much to offer, I am deeply concerned that an occupation of the State by the U.S. military may do irreversible damage.

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

ⁱ Migration Policy Institute, “Immigration Enforcement in the United States: The Rise of a Formidable Machinery” May 2013, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/research/immigration-enforcement-united-states-rise-formidable-machinery>

ⁱⁱ American Immigration Council, “The Cost of Immigration Enforcement and Border Security” January 25, 2017, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/the-cost-of-immigration-enforcement-and-border-security>

ⁱⁱⁱ Department of Homeland Security, “Efforts by DHS to Estimate Southwest Border Security between Ports of Entry” September 2017, https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/17_0914_estimates-of-border-security.pdf

^{iv} National Public Radio, Inc., “Arrests For Illegal Border Crossings Hit 46-Year Low” December 5, 2017, <https://www.npr.org/2017/12/05/568546381/arrests-for-illegal-border-crossings-hit-46-year-low>

^v American Immigration Council, “Asylum in the United States” August 22, 2016, <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/asylum-united-states>