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Press Release

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For Immediate Release

Contact: Carlos H. Cascos, CPA
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***Commissioners Court to mail President-Elect Barack Obama letter regarding U.S.
Mexico Border Wall.***

December 10, 2008

President-Elect Barack Obama
c/o Presidential Transition Team
Washington, D.C. 20270

RE: U.S. Mexico Border Wall

Dear President-Elect Obama:

Congratulations on your historic election. We wish you the best and pledge to work with you and your administration over the course of the next four years.

As you well know from your visits during the election all along the U.S.-Mexico border our local economies thrive due to our close relationship with Mexico. In fact, in 2007 alone, the U.S.-Mexico export and import trade totaled \$347.3 billion. Texas alone trades more with Mexico than all the European Union combined. At a time when our country faces a severe financial crisis, we believe it is irresponsible to spend billions of dollars on a wall that will not only scar our environmental landscape but also damage our relationship with communities and countries across the Americas. The \$6.3 billion that the federal government plans to spend on the border wall would be better spent on developing the infrastructure of the border region.

The recent appointment of Governor Janet Napolitano clearly signifies the importance of immigration reform to your administration. We sincerely hope that our plan will not include the main component of immigration reform pursued by the Bush administration and DHS Secretary Michael Chertoff – the border wall.

Border walls are currently under construction in all four southern border states, and hundreds more miles of walls called for by the Secure Border Fence Act are in the planning stages. In April 2008, for the fifth time, Secretary Chertoff used the power granted to him by the RealID Act to waive laws along the border so that walls and roads could be built without regard to public health and safety or environmental protection.

In Texas, condemnation proceedings have been initiated against border municipalities and landowners, in spite of the fact that the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 obliges homeland security officials to consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, states, local governments, Native American Nations and property owners in communities affected by the wall.

For our country to prosper, we must lead the way in the safe, fast and secure movement of people and products in a post-9/11 world. To achieve success our borders and ports-of-entry need adequate staffing, state-of-the-art technology, modern infrastructure and effective enforcement.

We respectfully ask that you make the cancellation of the border wall on the Southern border a top priority of your Administration. Let us build bridges of friendship, safety and prosperity- not walls of hatred and division. We have confidence that the CHANGE you have brought about will help you lead this great country to a nation of hope and great optimism for our future generations.

Thanks for your leadership on this issue.

Sincerest regards,