



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 25, 2024

Contact: Brandon Harris

[brandon.harris@nmlegis.gov](mailto:brandon.harris@nmlegis.gov)

(505) 506-6518

**Senator Crystal Brantley, Senate Republicans Call on DHS  
Secretary Mayorkas to Secure the Southern Border**  
*Letter follows visit by Senators Brantley and McCutcheon to the border wall in  
Luna County*

SANTA FE—Senator Crystal Brantley (R-Elephant Butte) and the Senate Republican Caucus today sent a letter to Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas calling for immediate action to secure the border. The letter was sent after Senator Brantley, together with Senator Steven McCutcheon (R-Carlsbad), toured a section of the U.S.-Mexico Border in Luna County.

“Special thanks to Russel Johnson and his family for showing us the lived reality facing our border communities,” said Senator Brantley. “The border crisis may just be a political talking point for President Biden, but for the families in my community, the dangers are very real.” During the tour, Senators Brantley and McCutcheon were shown sections of the existing border wall where gates are currently wide open due to a federal settlement allowing for wildlife migration. The landowners showed them debris left by groups of illegal immigrants who used the wildlife gates as an unfettered pathway to entry.

“What I witnessed at our southern border was a complete and utter dereliction of duty from President Biden and disgraced Secretary Mayorkas,” added Senator McCutcheon. “The open gates demonstrate that the Biden administration and this Governor have put the wellbeing of animals above the safety of the people of our state. Our landowners are literally on the front lines of a ground invasion, and until we get a handle on this crisis, we will continue to be ground zero for human trafficking, drug trafficking, and more violence.”

The letter to Secretary Mayorkas is attached below.

###



**BRANDON HARRIS | LEADERSHIP ANALYST**  
Republican Leadership Office  
New Mexico State Senate  
(505) 986-4830



# New Mexico State Senate

STATE CAPITOL

Santa Fe 87501

March 25, 2024

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

*Sent via email only*

Dear Mr. Secretary:

We, the undersigned New Mexico State Senators, are writing to express our growing frustrations and concerns with the escalating crisis at our southern border.

Procrastination and inaction by the Biden Administration are responsible for this crisis, and we are firsthand witnesses to its dire impacts on our local communities. The unfettered flow of illegal immigration and organized criminal activity is compromising the safety and security of our constituents, and the problems are only getting worse.

For these reasons, we were particularly angered to learn of the wide open gates at the border wall in Luna County. It is our understanding that these large passages were opened to allow for the free migration of wildlife, but given the current migrant surge, it is unfathomable that they remain open today.

The mismanagement of our southern border has rendered New Mexico particularly vulnerable and exposed to heightened criminal activity, including drug trafficking, human trafficking, violent crime, and damage to personal property. We are seeing a considerable increase in the number of migrant crossings, including a record-number of unaccompanied minors. We are also seeing dramatic spikes in drug seizures involving methamphetamines and fentanyl. Meanwhile, our local resources are strained, facilities are overcrowded, and law enforcement is overwhelmed.

Border security may be a political talking point for the President, but for our New Mexico citizens, it is a necessary means to preserve our property rights and our personal safety. The crisis at our southern border is unsustainable, and we demand action. Close the gates, allow the Border Patrol to do their job, and urge our Governor to deploy the National Guard to assist them.

Further delay is not an option. Secure our border now.

Signed:

  
CRYSTAL BRANTLEY  
State Senator

  
STEVEN McCUTCHEON II  
State Senator



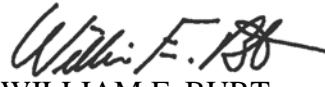
GREGORY A. BACA  
State Senator  
Senate Republican Leader



CRAIG W. BRANDT  
State Senator  
Senate Republican Whip



MARK MOORES  
State Senator  
Senate Republican Caucus Chair



WILLIAM F. BURT  
State Senator



DAVID M. GALLEGOS  
State Senator



RON GRIGGS  
State Senator



STEVEN P. NEVILLE  
State Senator



GREG NIBERT  
State Senator



CLIFF R. PIRTLE  
State Senator



JOSHUA SANCHEZ  
State Senator



GREGG SCHMEDES, M.D.  
State Senator



WILLIAM E. SHARER  
State Senator



PAT WOODS  
State Senator