

Sample Letter in Opposition to Trump's Destructive Border Wall *(courtesy Center for Biological Diversity)*

MAKE YOUR COMMENTS COUNT

Remember, personalizing your message by including your perspective and experiences is extremely critical to ensure your comments are fully considered.

----- Letter -----

I'm writing to urge you to immediately halt all planning and preparation for the construction of border walls in Arizona's Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties.

Adding 74 miles of border walls would significantly damage the environment, including habitat for endangered species like jaguars, ocelots, and Mexican spotted owls. It would also harm the culture, commerce, and quality of life for people in the area. The project would cut through or destroy a wildlife refuge, a designated wilderness area, national forest lands and a national memorial. It would seal off designated critical habitat for endangered jaguars and end jaguar recovery in the United States. The environmental damage that would come from this proposal is severe and unjustifiable.

The project would also be a colossal waste of taxpayer dollars. As the nation grapples with the COVID-19 pandemic, all available federal resources should be spent saving lives and supporting our healthcare system, not on costly and ineffective border barriers through rugged wildlands. Government reports show that border walls are expensive, ineffective, and unproven at deterring crossers, especially in remote regions like Arizona's Sky Island mountains. Congress understands these facts and has refused to give the Department of Homeland Security more funding for this purpose. Trump's illegal attempt to circumvent Congress to secure funding for these walls by taking money from the military is profoundly undemocratic and violates the separation of powers.

Finally, I'm aware that the Department of Homeland Security has already waived 41 laws to build these border walls in Arizona, including the Endangered Species Act, National Environmental Policy Act, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act. Casting these laws aside undermines any semblance of transparency, legitimacy, or concern for public trust. By waiving these laws, your department has ensured that the consequences and potential harms of this project will go unanalyzed.

The irreversible damage caused by the proposed project to wildlife, border communities and human rights is unjustifiable, especially when Congress has explicitly rejected funding for such a costly, ineffective, and unnecessary project.

For all these reasons, I urge you to immediately halt plans for border walls in Arizona's Pima, Cochise, and Santa Cruz counties.