November 27, 2023

Re: DHS Appropriations in FY24 FEDERAL BUDGET

Dear Representative Vasquez,

### We are writing to you on behalf of the Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of the Great Old Broads for Wilderness, a women-led national grassroots organization that advocates for preservation and protection of public and wild lands. Our chapter is located within southwestern New Mexico and focuses on resources and issues affecting this region.

The H. R. 4367 appropriations package for DHS that passed the House on 9/28/23 contains provisions in Title II, sections 211(a) and 212, ordering more border wall construction. We strongly oppose any requirement to expand the border wall—a process that has been deeply destructive, a huge waste of taxpayers’ money, and has done nothing to mitigate the real causes driving mass migration.

As the FY24 appropriations process staggers from one crisis to another, the pressure will increase for “horse trading” on provisions of each of the funding bills. We have urged your New Mexico colleagues Senators Heinrich and Luján to *reject any compromise* *on DHS funding that includes the aforementioned provisions from H.R. 4367*. From your end, as a member of the House Democratic contingent, we ask that you find less doctrinaire Republican colleagues and persuade them to join you in removing this language from H.R. 4367, to avoid budget gridlock and preserve our nation’s and our government’s capacity to function for all Americans.

With gratitude for all the good work you have done,

Starr Belsky,

Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness - Borderlands Committee

Marcia Stout and Denise Smith,

Co-leaders, Aldo’s Silver City Chapter of Great Old Broads for Wilderness

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