Stop the Border Wall Funding!

I strongly urge you to prohibit the funding of he the border wall and reject the $1.96 billion contained in the Senate’s Homeland Security appropriations bill. I strongly support the $75 million provided in the House version of the Dept of Homeland Security appropriations bill HR 7669 to begin to deal with the damage by border wall construction on public lands. This damage includes the rapid drawdown of the water table in Arizona and New Mexico to erect the cement infrastructures. The lack of water in this region is certainly to have dire consequences in the future for these residents. Furthermore, walls, fences, and barriers fragment sensitive ecosystems, cause flooding, and divide communities and tribal nations.

Much of the public land on which the border wall has been constructed has occurred on some of our country’s most fragile and biodiverse habitat, including national wildlife refuges and other public lands. This barrier impedes the movement of wildlife migration. The border region is host to a diverse group of threatened, endangered, and rare species, including the jaguar, ocelot, Mexican Gray wolf, arroyo toad, Peninsular bighorn sheep, Sonoran pronghorn, cactus pygmy owl, and checkerspot butterfly. Furthermore, 93 vulnerable species would be affected by wall construction and related infrastructure. It would also degrade and destroy critical habitat for 25 species. The wall is significantly more destructive than the vehicle barriers that were in many of those locations prior to the border wall construction. Under the Trump administration over 400 miles of border wall in California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas have been constructed, as a cost of as high as $41 Million per mile. These public funds have been raided by appropriations that Congress has adopted for the Department of Defense and the Department of the Treasury. There is no need for more funding for the wall, as President-elect Biden has stated that, “there will not be another foot of wall constructed in my administration” and that he would stop the lawsuits that the federal government has filed to seize land for border wall construction.

The majority of Americans (over 60%) are opposed to the building of more border wall. 36 states, cities, and counties passed resolutions opposing the border wall.

It is time to put our funding toward helping Americans rebuild their lives and economies since the pandemic has devastated so many communities. There should be NO MORE WALL Funding.

Thank you,

Laurie Kerr