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High-tech immigration controls will help secure border, Inglis says
\$8 billion radar-camera network being installed

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The Travelers Rest Republican said he's in favor of helping Mexico improve its economy to relieve the intense pressure from Mexicans trying to enter the United States illegally.

But in the meantime, his first priority is securing the border. And he thinks new technology being tested later this month promises to go a long way toward doing that.

"There's a sense that the cavalry is coming over the hill to help and get a handle on this," he said in a phone call from Arizona.

The cavalry, to use his term, is coming in the form of an \$8 billion network of radar-camera towers that would stretch along the entire border. A 28-mile stretch of towers will be tested beginning June 13, he said.


Advertisement A radar at each 90-foot tower is designed to detect motion up to 10 miles away in either direction, Inglis said. Border Patrol agents 100 miles or more away would be able to aim a day-or-night vision camera at the spot and see what's moving.

With the existing technology, agents are dispatched to places where movement has been detected, only to find out that it's a deer or a cow, Inglis said.

With the new system, "we'll be able to take a look-see and see what's moving and respond appropriately," he said.

His fact-finding mission so far has reinforced his belief that securing the 2,000-mile border with Mexico is the top priority, but it hasn't changed his mind about the immigration legislation moving through the Senate, he said.

Inglis will be home for a town meeting on immigration at the Greenville County main library at 7 p.m. on Monday.

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