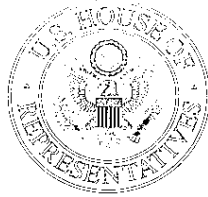


COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

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JOHN CULBERSON
7TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

March 16, 2006

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The Honorable Hal Rogers
Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security Appropriations
Room B-307 Rayburn Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers:

I am respectfully requesting funding for sheriffs in counties adjacent to the southern border to hire and train deputies, pay overtime, and purchase equipment both to enforce law and order along the border and to detain and house illegal aliens. Funding this program in the FY2007 Homeland Security Appropriations bill will provide immediate relief to the human and drug trafficking threats that southern border counties face.

My highest priority request is \$100 million for sheriffs along the southern border of the U.S. In FY06, the Science, Departments of State, Justice, and Commerce Subcommittee provided \$5 million for the Texas Border Sheriff Coalition to pay overtime, hire additional deputies, and purchase equipment. This Homeland Security request would extend the available resources from Brownsville to San Diego. There has been a sharp increase in violence and drug and human trafficking along the US-Mexico border and this request will provide the sheriffs with the resources they need to combat these problems. Local law enforcement along the border is severely undermanned, and since many of these counties are poor, they do not have the tax base to increase manpower. Additional federal assistance is necessary to protect the citizens of these counties and to stop human and drug traffic before it reaches the larger cities in our interior.

With the assistance of Chairman Sensenbrenner, I included authorization language in HR 4437, the Border Security Act that passed the House in December that would provide additional resources to southern border sheriffs. Section 607 of HR 4437 authorizes \$100 million for sheriffs to hire and train additional deputies, pay overtime, and purchase equipment. I hope to work with the Subcommittee to include this language in the FY07 Homeland Security Appropriations bill. For your convenience, I have included a copy of Section 607 of HR 4437.

Thank you for your consideration of this request,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Culberson".

John Culberson
Member of Congress