



STATE OF ARIZONA
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

DOUGLAS A. DUCEY
GOVERNOR

EXECUTIVE OFFICE

June 30, 2022

The Honorable Katie Hobbs
Secretary of State
1700 W. Washington, 7th Floor
Phoenix, AZ 85007

RE: House Bill 2317 revenue distribution; border security

Dear Secretary Hobbs,

Today I signed the most meaningful border security legislation in Arizona history. H.B. 2317 directs \$335 million to the Border Security Fund to construct and maintain a physical and virtual barrier along the southern border — a record investment to protect our communities from the dangers of the current border crisis. Arizona will not sit idly by as the Biden administration fails to do its job and safeguard our state and nation from the clear and present danger of an unsecure border.

Arizonans fully understand the importance of this investment. As I write to you, the worst border crisis in over 20 years is unfolding in our state. I've been outspoken about the impact this crisis has on Arizonans, our communities and migrants. We've taken numerous steps to help resolve the chaos, including deploying the Arizona National Guard, signing legislation to address human smuggling and transporting migrants on a voluntary basis to Washington, D.C. Ultimately, however, securing our border is the responsibility of the federal government.

Border authorities are overwhelmed by the flood of migrants coming across the border, making their jobs more difficult and security less achievable. The brave men and women of Customs and Border Protection are seeing record numbers of migrants, including those who evade apprehension and enter our country uninterrupted. Incidents of human smuggling and trafficking have skyrocketed in the past year and a half — just this week, more than 50 migrants were discovered dead in a semi-truck trailer in Texas. This heartbreaking tragedy is just the most recent example of how much of a humanitarian catastrophe we're facing.

As law enforcement works to address the humanitarian crisis, their efforts to address criminal activity on the border are thwarted. A physical structure and an enhanced virtual system will mitigate the unlawful flow of migrants across the border and ensure that law enforcement can address the criminal activity that originates at our border and flows into our state and throughout our country.

With this investment, we are giving our law enforcement professionals another critical resource they need to successfully do their jobs. We are standing up for the rule of law, and we are cementing Arizona's commitment to securing our state and our entire nation.

This bill complements the targeted dollars from the FY2023 General Appropriations Act, which also make border security a priority. Altogether, Arizona is dedicating a record \$564 million to secure our border with a physical barrier, address critical public safety staffing shortages, and modernize the technology and public safety equipment to target criminal activity and keep our citizens safe.

As I sign this bill today, we are taking an additional action to do the job Washington, D.C. refuses to. More action is needed from the federal government, but with these targeted investments Arizona is putting the safety of our state and nation first.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Douglas A. Ducey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Douglas A. Ducey
Governor
State of Arizona

cc: The Honorable Karen Fann
The Honorable Rusty Bowers
The Senate Secretary
The House Clerk
AZ News Service