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Duncan Hunter
U.S. House of Representatives
50th District, California

November 1, 2018

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Trump:

Like you, I believe a completed border wall is imperative to America's national security. Unfortunately, bureaucracy and political posturing seek to delay this important effort. I am writing to offer a solution that will provide for completing a large portion of the border wall project in the next three months with no additional funding from Congress. The key is to utilize the construction assets of the US Army, but additionally the Marine Corps, the Naval Construction Battalions (Navy SEABEES), US National Guard and US Army Reserve as well. As you know, each service maintains engineering units with road building and construction machinery, as well as operators.

The border wall project consists of two elements: the foundational road along the border upon which the wall will be built and the wall itself. Constructing the first element of the foundational border road can be performed utilizing five types of basic machines: bulldozers, scrapers, rollers, motor graders and water trucks. These machines can be found in every engineering unit in the US Army, Marine Corps, Navy SEABEES and US National Guard and US Army Reserve. Additionally, the machinery and manpower is already paid for, awaiting only direction for utilization.

Construction costs of the border wall escalate largely by the cut and fill required for the foundational road. For example, here in San Diego, we found the cut and fill through Smugglers Gulch, just east of the Pacific Ocean, consumed more than half of the fencing budget. By utilizing active and reserve military assets, for which funding already exists and whose deployment you have already suggested to address the armies of migrants moving to infiltrate our nation, you will save massive amounts of taxpayer dollars as well as precious time. A six-piece team, each consisting of a bulldozer, motor grader, scraper, roller and two water trucks operated by 10 personnel can construct approximately a quarter mile of foundational border road in one day. It is very achievable for 100 teams to build 25 miles of such road per day depending on the terrain.

My recommendation is to direct United States Northern Command (USNORTHCOM) to move the appropriate equipment and personnel to border bases to accomplish staging preparations for construction while, at the same time, mutually supporting active duty personnel stationed to defend our border. Naval Base San Diego, Marine Corps Air Station Yuma, Fort

Huachuca, and Fort Bliss are all appropriate staging locations. USNORTHCOM, coordinating and consulting with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, should identify priority construction sites on the southern border. At the same time that the border foundational road is constructed, the available engineering units can commence construction of the wall itself. As Commander in Chief, you are in a position to authorize these actions utilizing training funds without waiting for additional funding from Congress. As we found in San Diego, rotating units of the US National Guard and the US Army Reserve derived better training building the fence and road than they did from the “make work” projects at their home bases.

I stand ready to provide any follow up briefing regarding our San Diego experience that may be useful. The approaching army of migrants from Honduras and other foreign countries illustrates that, just like a family home, walls are necessary to direct those who wish to enter to knock on the front door. Thank you for your time and leadership on this important issue.

With best wishes.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Duncan Hunter", is written over a large, faint blue circular stamp or watermark.

Duncan Hunter
Member of Congress