



May 20, 2021

Hon. John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Bldg.
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

The Border Trade Alliance writes to express its support for your Bipartisan Border Solutions Act of 2021.

The Department of Homeland Security reports that the first three months of 2021 saw more than 300,000 migrant encounters at the United States-Mexico border, a dramatic year-over-year increase. The surge of migrants is a humanitarian tragedy and a security failing.

Our organization is especially concerned about the surge's impact on regular border operations that have already been disrupted over the past year by the pandemic. As we've experienced in previous increases in undocumented border crossings, DHS may be forced to divert its limited resources from the important dual mission of security and facilitation to the task of migrant processing, resulting in congestion at the ports of entry and costly shipping delays.

We believe strongly that your bill will better equip DHS and the Department of Justice to efficiently and properly manage the flow of migrants in a manner that treats migrants fairly, reduces the strain on local community resources, and maintains normal port of entry operations. We are especially encouraged that your legislation will allow DHS and DOJ increased hiring authority to ensure that frontline DHS personnel can continue to carry out their critically important agency mission.

On behalf of our public and private sector members whose livelihoods depend on a secure and well-managed border, we thank you for introducing the Bipartisan Border Solutions Act of 2021. Please do not hesitate to count on our years of experience in cross-border affairs as a resource as this bill makes its way through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sergio Contreras".

Sergio Contreras
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Britton Mullen".

Britton Mullen
President