



SCOTT WALKER
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF WISCONSIN

P.O. Box 7863
MADISON, WI 53707

April 9, 2018

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan,

Let me be clear: the southern border of the United States of America is not secure. One of the most fundamental responsibilities of our federal government is to protect our borders and shores. Sadly, through several administrations, the federal government has failed in this fundamental responsibility.

Over the years, I have spoken with many state and federal leaders about border security, including several governors from southern border states. They explained the concerns they have about the many individuals crossing the border who they believe are connected to terrorist organizations or to areas of the world that harbor members of these organizations. They spoke of the volume of illegal drugs, human trafficking, and the movement of illegal firearms into our country.

Various local, state, and federal government leaders, as well as private citizens, have voiced these concerns before committees of the United States Congress over the past few years. The concerns raised by these respected leaders represent a clear threat to citizens across our entire country, including the citizens of Wisconsin.

A serious threat requires a serious response from the federal government, and calling for the involvement of the National Guard to address this threat is not unprecedented. There is a long history of presidents calling on the members of our Armed Forces, specifically members of the National Guard, to assist in protecting and securing our southern border.

Last year, we celebrated the 100th anniversary of the 32nd "Red Arrow" Division that was made up of members of the Wisconsin and Michigan National Guards. In 1916, the Wisconsin National Guard joined units from other states that were called to defend the southern border with Mexico.

Recent history shows presidents from both parties have called on members of the National Guard to specifically help fight the very real threat from those bringing illegal drugs across the southern border.

On November 13, 1989, General Colin Powell established Joint Task Force Six that expanded the military's role in the war on drugs along the border. The task force, according to the Department of Defense, conducted more than 6,400 missions and assisted in the seizure of more than \$15 billion in illegal drugs.

In 2006, President George W. Bush deployed 6,000 National Guard members to assist Border Patrol operations on the southern border. The National Guard assisted in more than 176,000 apprehensions as well as the seizure of more than 316,000 pounds of marijuana and 5,200 pounds of cocaine.

In 2010, President Barack Obama ordered the deployment of 1,200 National Guard members to support the Border Patrol as part of Operation Phalanx. The National Guard assisted in about 18,000 apprehensions and the seizure of more than 56,000 pounds of marijuana during the first year of the operation, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

As Governor, I want to ensure the safety of all of our citizens, and I want to reduce access to illegal drugs as part of a comprehensive strategy in dealing with opioid and illegal drug addiction. Therefore, I welcome President Donald Trump's aggressive actions to secure our nation's southern border.

In addition, I support placing military training facilities along our southern border. This would be a cost-effective way to increase the presence of our military along the southern border, while also serving as a logical place to train our military for future operations.

There is no greater honor I have than serving as the commander-in-chief of the 10,000 men and women of the Wisconsin National Guard. As they carry out their oath to support and defend our state and nation, we must all support them and be grateful for their service and sacrifice.

Thank you for your interest in this important issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. Walker', written in a cursive style.

Scott Walker
Governor