

BOB FILNER  
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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES  
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February 13, 2009

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The Honorable Ken Salazar  
Secretary  
United States Department of the Interior  
1849 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20240

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I am writing to ask that the Department of the Interior (DOI) include mitigation measures for the California border, as DOI moves forward with environmental stewardship measures related to the construction of the border fence.

I am pleased that DOI and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) are finally committed to not only studying and evaluating the environmental impact of border security but also establishing a process for identification and implementation of mitigation measures. As you know, the Bush Administration waived very critical environmental laws to begin the construction of the border fence in my Congressional district. The fence has had a damaging effect on the environment and the community, and this damage can continue. However, working cooperatively, measures can be taken to avoid further impact.

I request that mitigation projects for the California border be included in the comprehensive list of mitigation measures that DOI will be submitting to DHS later this year. The border communities in my Congressional district will suffer the repercussions if nothing is done!

I understand that \$50 million has been pledged to implement proposed mitigation measures for the southwest border, and I will continue to support additional funding. I am glad that DOI and DHS are taking steps in the right direction for the environment, and I am hopeful that proper mitigation measures will be taken along the entire southwest border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Bob Filner', written over a circular scribble.

BOB FILNER  
Member of Congress

BF/sm  
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