



**Border Legislative Conference
Resolution No. 2004-01 Amending 2003-03**

WHEREAS, Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996 mandated the development of an automated entry/exit system, to be implemented through the U.S. Visit Program; and

WHEREAS, the Border Legislative Conference supports the development of mechanisms which enable safe, secure, and efficient cross-border movement of people and goods, and recognizes the United States' documentation standards and the need for the United States and Mexico to resolve this issue quickly; and

WHEREAS, U.S. Visit Program will be implementation at the 50 largest land border ports of entry by December 31, 2004; and

WHEREAS, information about the specific and conceptual implementation of this program remains limited; and

WHEREAS, state and local policymakers, cross-border business interests, and border residents remain concerned about the possible impacts on cross -border trade, movement of people and goods, and the environment; and

WHEREAS, members of the Border Legislative Conference are concerned that the implementation of this program at land ports of entry may negatively affect the border region;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the BLC urges the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to conduct outreach meetings along the southern and northern borders to allow elected officials, border residents, and other stakeholders to provide input in the ongoing implementation and direction of this program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security make every effort to ensure that the implementation of this program does not negatively affect the NAFTA economies of the border region, or the quality of life for its residents; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the U.S. federal government shall establish lines of communication with Mexican and Canadian authorities on the development of the U.S. Visit program to maximize the positive impacts that can result from more efficient border crossing procedures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the members of the BLC applaud the recent decision by the U. S. Department of Homeland Security to expand the time Mexicans with laser visas, also known as B1/B2 Visa or Border Crossing Cards, can remain in the United States without obtaining an I-94 from 72-hours to 30-days. Furthermore, the members of the BLC urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to consider the expansion of the 25-mile travel restriction for Mexican border crossers with laser visas such that the resulting program shall be applied equally at ports of entry on the U.S./Mexico and U.S./Canada borders, without regard to nationality.

Amendment to Resolution 2003-03 was considered and adopted on November 19, 2004 at the IX Forum of the Border Legislative Conference in Hermosillo, Sonora.



Senator Roberto Cannell
Chair, BLC
Arizona State Senate



Diputado Carlos Galindo Meza
Vice Chair, BLC
Sonora State Legislature