



BORDER LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION NO. 2003-02

- WHEREAS,** The United States of America and the United Mexican States share a border of approximately two thousand miles, as well as common values and a vision for the prosperity of the border region;
- WHEREAS,** Both nations must invest in modern and efficient infrastructure to meet the rapid social, economic, environmental, demographic, and pressing infrastructure demands along the U.S.-Mexico border region;
- WHEREAS,** The North American Development Bank (NADBank), and its sister institution, the Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC), were created under the auspices of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) for the purpose of certifying and financing environmental infrastructure projects along the border;
- WHEREAS,** International financial institutions such as the NADBank and BECC must consider the unique economic asymmetries and serve as a mechanism that supports and strengthens bilateral agreements aimed at improving the environmental conditions of the border region;
- WHEREAS,** The grants awarded to border communities through the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Border Environmental Infrastructure Fund program (BEIF), also known as the Border Water Infrastructure Fund (BWIF), help finance necessary water infrastructure for the protection of public health and the environment, and lead to additional funding matches provided by the Mexican government;
- WHEREAS,** The BEIF program is critical to address the compelling environmental infrastructure deficiencies that exist along the U.S.-Mexico border and the inadequate funding of this program would preclude the construction of sewage collection, wastewater treatment, and potable water supply projects that are ready for construction and vital for this region;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Border Legislative Conference (BLC), a binational organization, representing the legislatures of all of the states from both sides of the U.S.- Mexico border, urges the U.S. Congress to restore full funding of \$100 million in the FY 2004 Budget and subsequent years for the U.S. EPA's BEIF program;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the BLC urges support of the NADBank's initiatives and the expansion of financial instruments to enhance its effectiveness in addressing infrastructure needs along the U.S.-Mexico border region, including an increase in the bank's low-interest rate lending program, geographic expansion of the NADBank/BECC jurisdiction in Mexico to 300 kilometers from the border, and the creation of a single board of directors to govern both institutions;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that both nations continue, at all levels of government, to engage in ongoing collaboration to develop short-term and long-term strategies to ensure greater security and efficiency along the U.S.-Mexico border region.

Adopted this 29th day of August, 2003, at the
BLC Meeting in Saltillo, Coahuila



Senator Jeff Wentworth, Texas
Border Legislative Conference, Chair



Diputado Ricardo Arturo Castro Lopez, Chihuahua
Border Legislative Conference, Vice Chair