



DECIMOQUINTA
CONFERENCIA
LEGISLATIVA
FRONTERIZA
FIFTEENTH BORDER
LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE
CHIHUAHUA 2007

CHIHUAHUA ACTIONS 2007
15th Border Legislative Conference
Chihuahua, Chihuahua, Mexico
March 30, 2007

State legislators of the United States and Mexico border states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Tamaulipas, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, with the participation of federal legislators from the Foreign Affairs Committee, and the Population, Borders, and Migration Affairs Committee of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies, convening in the City of Chihuahua, Mexico on March 30, 2007 for the 15th Border Legislative Conference, adopted the following declarations and actions:

BORDER SECURITY AND IMMIGRATION

The members of the Border Legislative Conference strongly reaffirmed their call on the federal governments of the United States and Mexico to work together towards the enactment of a comprehensive border security and immigration strategy that, among other things, promotes:

- Fair and comprehensive immigration legislation that balances border security concerns with the recognition of existing U.S. demand for workers, including a guest worker program and path to legalization;
- The establishment of binational mechanisms that promote the legal, secure, orderly and humane immigration;
- Urge the implementation of cross border policies that facilitate the fast and secure movement of people and product along the border;
- Policies and reforms that establish the necessary conditions in Mexico and the U.S. to mitigate the impacts of illegal immigration in the border region and promote economic integration for the North American Hemisphere;
- Deepened, strategic collaboration among law enforcement entities among all levels of government in the U.S. and Mexico to protect immigrants and border residents from abuse by organized crime and smugglers; and
- Initiatives aimed at promoting investment and economic opportunities of migrant sending regions in Mexico.



The members of Border Legislative Conference directed the Chair and Vice Chair to communicate with multi-level governments, business, and other stakeholders from the United States and Mexico to assert the Border Legislative Conference's position on the critical issue of immigration as expressed in previous resolutions and actions, including:

1. Concerns Expressed Regarding Passage of Secure Fence Act at the 14th BLC in Phoenix, Arizona, December 2006;
2. Policy Statement 2006-01 Regarding Immigration Reform at the 13th BLC in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon, May 2006;
3. Policy Statement on Immigration, Border Security, Repatriation of Mexican nationals, and State and Federal Legislative Cooperation at the 11th BLC in Tijuana, Baja California, August 2005;
4. Resolution 2005-01 Related to Immigration at the 10th BLC in San Diego, California; and
5. Resolution 2004-01 Regarding Section 110 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Responsibility Act of 1996 at the 9th BLC in Hermosillo, Sonora, November 2004

DIMINISHING DRUG ADDICTION

The members of the Border Legislative Conference expressed the need for border states to enhance their efforts to prevent drug abuse and to provide the necessary rehabilitation resources for affected populations along the border. Furthermore, the members of the Border Legislative Conference stated that greater cooperation is needed among local, state, and federal entities to effectively combat drug abuse and to maximize and leverage public resources. As such, border legislators expressed support of the drug prevention efforts and strategies established by the United States Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and Mexico's National Council Against Drug Addiction (CONADIC) and called upon both agencies to continue working together to improve Federal – State drug prevention efforts along the United States – Mexico border region.

The members of the Border Legislative Conference directed staff to:

- Identify and exchange information of model drug prevention programs to members of the Border Legislative Conference, including drug court programs; mandatory drug testing; and programs aimed at migrant populations;
- Provide border legislators copies of model legislation that have established effective drug prevention programs and strategies; and
- Work with the appropriate binational mechanisms, including the Border Governors Conference Health Work Table, and United States – Mexico Alliance of Border Coalitions to identify effective drug prevention approaches; and
- Present specific policy recommendations on the topic of substance abuse at the next Border Legislative Conference.



BORDER CROSSINGS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The members of the Border Legislative Conference reaffirmed their commitment to promoting safe, fast and smart commercial and pedestrian crossings along the United States and Mexico border region. Border legislators solicited the United States Department of Homeland Security and Mexico's Ministry of Communications and Transportation to consider the Secure Manufacturing Zones concept, as adopted by the Border Legislative Conference on December of 2005.

The Secure Manufacturing Zones concept entails the equipping of commercial vehicles and manufacturing facilities with advanced technologies to enable point of origin monitoring and clearance of commercial cargo, supply chain visibility, and the system's integration to high priority corridors. The concept also promotes the retrofitting of commercial vehicles' engines with innovative, clean natural gas systems and necessary refueling infrastructure to improve the border region's air quality and public health.

Border legislators approved the chair and vice chairs' outreach efforts outlined in the 2007 Border Legislative Conference Work Plan for the Economic Development Committee. These activities include:

- Finalize the draft Border 2020 *Secure, Fast, Smart* Strategy – to include comprehensive overview/analysis and suggested state legislation;
- Disseminate copies of federal border ports studies / analysis that identify priority crossings and corridors;
- Issue copies to Border Legislative Conference members and appropriate committees of legislation introduced in the Texas Senate by Senator Eliot Shapleigh aimed at providing tax incentives to business investing in Secure Manufacturing technologies;
- Seek participation in the appropriate work table meetings of the Border Governors Conference that will convene in Puerto Peñasco, Sonora in September 2007 to identify joint executive – legislative efforts to implement the Secure Manufacturing Zones proposal;
- Continued outreach for support of the Secure Manufacturing Zones proposal and Border 2020 – *Secure, Fast, Smart* Strategy, including visits to Washington DC and Mexico City to meet with appropriate administrative officials and federal congressional committees, as well as local governments and other binational mechanisms.



TRAFFICKING OF PERSONS

United States and Mexico border legislators expressed the need to enact effective policies that deter and punish individuals or group of individuals involved in the trafficking of persons, including sexual trafficking and labor trafficking by force, fraud, or coercion along international borders.

The officers of the Border Legislative Conference directed the Health Committee, through the leadership of Senator Mary Jane Garcia of New Mexico and Diputada Irma Villalobos Rascon, as well as Diputada Leticia Amparano Gamez, both from Sonora, to conduct the following activities:

- Exchange information with members of the Border Legislative Conference, and other state and federal legislators regarding existing programs and legislative efforts aimed at addressing human trafficking;
- Establish communications and work with government and non-governmental entities to identify viable state legislative initiatives to improve the enforcement of human trafficking; and
- Present the members of the Border Legislative Conference a report and legislative recommendations at the Sixteenth Border Legislative Conference.

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

Location and topics of 16th Border Legislative Conference

The members unanimously accepted the invitation by Senator Mary Jane Garcia and Representative Andy Nuñez of the New Mexico State Legislature to convene the Sixteenth Border Legislative Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico in the fall/winter of 2007.

The Forum will focus on the following topics:

1. Trafficking of persons;
2. Violence against women;
3. Water;
4. Global climate change;
5. Access to capital; and
6. Agriculture.



Committee Appointments

The Officers of the Border Legislative Conference provided participating legislators an opportunity to update the membership of the three Border Legislative Conference policy committees: economic development, environment, and health. The following members comprise each of the committees:

Economic Development:

Diputado Luis Melecio Chavarin Gaxiola, Sonora
Representative Andy Nunez, New Mexico
Diputada Maria Eugenia De Leon Perez, Tamaulipas
*Member(s) of the Nuevo Leon State Legislature
Diputado Jaime Garcia Chavez, Chihuahua
Representative Ryan Guillen, Texas
Federal Diputado Andres Bermudes Viramontes, Zacatecas
Federal Diputado Cruz Perez Cuellar, Chihuahua

Environment

Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny, California, Co-Chair
Diputado Ventura Felix Armenta, Sonora
Diputado Francisco Saracho Navarro, Coahuila
Diputado Reynaldo Millan Cota, Sonora
Federal Diputado Francisco Rueda Gomez, Baja California

Health Committee

Senator Mary Jane Garcia, New Mexico, Co-Chair
Diputada Leticia Amparano Gamez, Sonora, Co-Chair
Diputada Irma Villalobos Rascon, Sonora
Diputado Salvador Gomez Ramirez, Chihuahua
Diputado Alfredo Garza Castillo, Coahuila
Diputada Lilia Aguilar Gil, Chihuahua
Federal Diputado Rodolfo Solis Parga, Guanajuato
Federal Diputado Humberto Zazueta Aguilar, Guerrero
Federal Diputado Jose Nicolas Morales Ramos, Jalisco

* = to be determined

Committee Focus

The Officers of the Border Legislative Conference directed each committee to establish work plans and to present reports with specific, concrete recommendations at the next Border Legislative Conference.