



**18th Border Legislative Conference
Santa Monica, California
September 25-27, 2008**

SUMMARY OF ACTIONS

State legislators of the United States and Mexico border states of Sonora, Chihuahua, Coahuila, Nuevo Leon, Tamaulipas, California, Arizona, New Mexico, and Texas, along with the participation of federal legislators from the Senate Committee on Northern Border Affairs, as well as the International Relations and the Population, Borders, and Migration Affairs Committees of Mexico's Chamber of Deputies, convening in Santa Monica, California September 25-27, 2008 for the 18th Border Legislative Conference, adopted the following declarations and actions:

INTERBRANCH COOPERATION: BORDER GOVERNORS CONFERENCE

- Members of the Border Legislative Conference unanimously expressed support of the 2008 Border Governors Conference Joint Declaration;
- Enhance executive – legislative cooperation by working with the Border Governors Conference Work Tables to convene joint forums aimed at having state common strategies and efforts;
- Border Legislative Conference Officers to direct communication to Nuevo Leon Governor Jose Natividad Gonzalez Paras, Chair of the Border Governors Conference, of the interest of the Border Legislative Conference to further integrate work plans to promote legislative – executive branch collaboration;
- Request that the Logistics and International Crossings Work Table of the Border Governors Conference strengthen its efforts to objectively define “substantially” within the context of reducing cross border wait times; and
- Direct BLC staff to work with staff of the Border Governors Conference to enable such efforts prior to the next Border Governors Conference in Monterrey, Nuevo Leon.

PUBLIC SAFETY

- Express support of the joint declaration adopted by attorney generals of Mexico and the United States in March in Phoenix, Arizona;
- Encourage U.S. – Mexico federal and state authorities to maintain cooperation on efforts to combat organized crime and enhance the security of the border region;
- Encourage Border Legislative Conference members to identify legislation related to money laundering;
- Identify state and local legal and administrative loopholes related to the purchase of weapons, including bulk purchases, multiple sale of long guns (i.e. AK 47's) and promoting the vigorous identification and pursuit of facilitating gun dealers engaged in illegal gun sales;
- Initiate legislation to develop joint, binational commissions or task forces to address human trafficking through Memorandums of Agreement; and
- Direct staff to identify model framework of cooperation that links the binational efforts of the U.S. – Mexico Attorney Generals with those of the Border Legislative Conference to encourage the development of public policies that support the missions and goals of such efforts.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: COMPETITIVENESS

- Identify and develop legislation and draft proposals to enhance the efficiency and uniformity of business transactions along the U.S. – Mexico border region; and
- Direct staff to work with appropriate border stakeholders, including the National Law Center for Inter-American Free Trade, the U.S. – Mexico Bar Association and others to provide suggestions of potential areas of focus.

AGRICULTURE

- Direct staff to work with Representative Ryan Guillen of Texas and members of the Tamaulipas State Legislature to convene a binational, regional agriculture, livestock, wildlife and fisheries forum prior to the next BLC to discuss and identify specific recommendations for the consideration of the BLC; and
- Direct BLC staff along with Representative Guillen and Tamaulipas members to identify potential quantitative and qualitative frameworks to promote the development of regional, self sustaining agricultural, livestock, wildlife and fisheries policies.

MEMORIAL RESOLUTION FOR U.S. AND MEXICO IBWC COMMISSIONERS

- The members of the Border Legislative Conference adopted a memorial resolution in honor of United States Commissioner of the International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC), Carlos Marin, and the Mexico Commissioner of the IBWC, Arturo Herrera Solis;
- Direct staff to send copy of memorial resolution adopted by the members of the Border Legislative Conference to the families of U.S. IBWC Commissioner Carlos Marin and Mexico IBWC Commissioner Arturo Herrera Solis; and
- Adjourn 18th Border Legislative Conference in memory of Commissioners Carlos Marin and Arturo Herrera Solis.

ENVIRONMENT

- Encourage that private sector and public utilities along the border region are investing in energy conservations and efficiencies;
- Encourage border states and appropriate energy regulatory agencies to develop energy efficiency action plans that promote and encourage cost efficiencies and energy improvements;
- Encourage long-term planning regarding water resources and policies as they are affected by climate change;
- Encourage long-term, reliable Border Environment Cooperation Commission and NADBank financing;
- Continued promotion of legislation for reuse, cohesive regulations and reduction of waste tire piles along the U.S. – Mexico border region; and
- Direct staff to compile waste tire regulations prior to next Border Legislative Conference.

ORGANIZATIONAL ISSUES

- Diputado Francisco Cantu Torres of the State of Nuevo Leon rotates to the position of Chair for 2009;
- The participating United States members of the Border Legislative Conference elected Senator Denise Moreno Ducheny of California as the 2009 Vice Chair of the Border Legislative Conference; and
- The members of the Border Legislative Conference unanimously accepted the invitation by the Tamaulipas delegates to convene the 19th Border Legislative Conference in the State of Tamaulipas in the spring of 2009.