

TONY GONZALES
23RD DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MILITARY CONSTRUCTION,
VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION,
HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND
RELATED AGENCIES



Congress of the United States
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September 21, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

CC: Regional Administrator Tony Robinson
FEMA Region 6
Denton, Texas

Dear President Biden:

As the congressional representative for Del Rio, Texas, and more than forty percent of our U.S.-Mexico border, I write in full support of Governor Greg Abbott's request for a statewide emergency disaster declaration. The ongoing chaos at the Del Rio International Bridge demands the full force of the federal government's involvement.

Since January of this year, 19 of the 29 counties I represent have declared an emergency local disaster declaration. These communities have shouldered the weight of this migrant crisis, and that is no easy feat for rural areas that lack the resources, infrastructure, and manpower to manage these ongoing strains.

Although the State of Texas has been proactive in committing its own resources to this emergency, the federal government is primarily responsible for border security, and federal engagement is critical to bring relief to our southern border. This is a national security issue and a humanitarian crisis that is visible on an international scale. To prevent it from spiraling further out of control, I urge you to take immediate action to approve Governor Abbott's request for an emergency disaster declaration.

Sincerely,

Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress