

**My name is Joe Johnson. I am the third generation to live and operate a cattle ranch that has been in my family since 1918. The southern boundary of my ranch runs up against the US/Mexico border for approximately 8 miles. For most of those 103 years, there was only a 5 strand, barbed wire fence separating the US/Mexico border. This was a fence that was built, maintained and paid for by my family.**

**In my lifetime, I have seen all types of problems and issues that most people do not have to deal with. We have had cattle stolen, fences damaged, water storage tanks drained and damaged, death and sickness in cattle, homes and buildings broken into, vehicles stolen at gunpoint and pastures burned just to mention a few. All these things were caused by illegal alien traffic.**

**2005 and 2006 were some of the worst years we have had for illegal alien traffic, up until now. In 2005 we had 500 plus illegal aliens crossing our ranch every day. In 2006 we had 1000 plus crossing daily. These are border patrol numbers that do not include what they call getaways. It was a living hell. We never felt safe whether we were on the ranch or in our homes. When the illegals would cross over, they would walk to our water sources and they would run our cattle off of water. This happened continuously throughout the day and night and eventually it caused our cattle to break out in pasturella pneumonia. We lost 17 calves in a week and had over 50 cow/calf pairs sick. This was very devastating as well as expensive.**

**Two months ago, my wife was riding horseback through our mountains checking on some cattle, about 2 miles north of the border. She encountered 5 illegal aliens dressed in camouflage and black masks. She encountered 8 more dressed the same way, less than a mile away. Needless to say, the incident scared her enough that she rode home without completing the job she set out to do. The**

**numbers and frequency of these encounters are increasing by the day. This is unacceptable.**

**The simple chores that I have done as a kid, and my children have done and my grandchildren are learning to do, are no longer safe because of the fear of these illegal aliens. These simple chores are how we teach our children to become responsible, respectful and to gain a work ethic that will stay with them the rest of their lives.**

**In agriculture, we do not have the luxury of a 9 to 5, Monday through Friday work week. Our jobs are all day, every day. At times we will have issues that take us out in the middle of the night....a cut fence, a broken water line, a sick animal. We find hypodermic needles, blister packs of unknown drugs, trash and even feces in our water troughs. These people can be carrying diseases such as COVID, tuberculosis or hepatitis, just to name a few, that can be transmitted to people and animals. We should be able to do our job without the fear of illegal aliens. We cannot call law enforcement from these remote locations because we do not have cell phone signal.**

**In April of 2020, construction on the Border Wall began. I thought finally, after all these years, my family would not have to deal with this illegal invasion, and the problems that come with it, once and for all. Our children and grandchildren could play in the backyard without constant supervision. We could work without having to watch our backs. Our cattle wouldn't be stressed or exposed to diseases. Our homes and vehicles would not get broke into or stolen. Our sense of peace and safety could be restored. Those hopes came to an end the morning of January 21, 2021 when Joe Biden signed an executive order halting construction on the border wall project. Most people do not realize, that along with the construction of the wall, there would be all weather roads, lighting and state of the art sensor technology. Each part being crucial to securing our international border. When construction halted, we were left with**

**a ¾ mile gap in the wall. This gap has become a huge funnel for illegal alien traffic through our ranch. What we had to suffer through in 2005 and 2006 is happening all over again. This is unacceptable.**

**I feel my government has failed me, my family and my business. The solution to this problem is painfully obvious....finish the border wall project. I hope you can help, not only me and my family, but the entire nation who is also greatly affected by this invasion. I hope my testimony is taken to heart and that it does not fall on deaf ears.**

**Thank you.**