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Thomas P. Tiffany
Chairman
Subcommittee on Federal Lands
U. S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20215

Dear Chairman Tiffany,

February 13, 2024

Thank you for permitting me to present Testimony at your Committee hearing in Sierra Vista, Arizona, February 8, 2024. Recently, a reporter called my attention to an answer I provided to your important question about the cost to me, a border rancher, resulting from the thousands of illegal trespassers crossing through my ranch. A portion of my answer included the annual cost of the trespassers was \$60,000.

May I respectfully explain the estimated \$60,000 per year cost to me:

1. Fixing 13.5 miles of surface pipelines cut by unlawful aliens seeking water; these water infrastructure improvements are the only reliable source of water for cattle or wildlife on the entire ranch.
2. Picking up trash left by border crossers;
3. Cattle dying due to their ingesting of plastic bags discarded by intruders;
4. Regularly (roughly every 48 hours) inspecting twenty-four different wells by two cowboys rather than one cowboy due to border safety concerns; and
5. Ensuring 32 wildlife and stockwater troughs/float valves have not been damaged by crossers and then repairing the frequently encountered damage.

Please consider sharing this letter with the Honorable Members of the Committee.

If the international **border were secure at the border**, I would not have the aforementioned costs.

Thank you for all you do for all of us all of the time.

Respectfully,

Jim Chilton
CC: Colen Morrow, Taylor Wiseman, Jason Blore, Brandon Miller