

**American Immigration Lawyers Association \* Asian American Justice Center  
Border Action Network \* Border Network for Human Rights  
Center for Biological Diversity \* Center for Human Rights and Constitutional Law  
Coalition for Humane Immigrant Rights of Los Angeles  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach \* Defenders of Wildlife  
Earthjustice \* Friends Committee on National Legislation  
Friends of Friendship Park \* Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project  
International League of Conservation Photographers  
Latin America Working Group \* The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights  
League of Conservation Voters \* Mennonite Central Committee U.S. Washington Office  
National Council of La Raza \* National Immigration Forum  
National Immigration Law Center \* National Immigration Project of the NLG  
No Border Wall \* San Diego Foundation for Change \* Sierra Club  
Sky Island Alliance \* South Asian Americans Leading Together  
Texas Border Coalition \* The United Church of Christ, Justice and Witness Ministries  
Union for Reform Judaism \* Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations  
Valley Nature Center**

Thursday, May 6, 2010

The Honorable Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
522 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Durbin  
United States Senate  
309 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Reid and Durbin,

On behalf of our millions of members and supporters across the country, the undersigned organizations are writing to urge you to prevent any proposal to build more border walls, including SA 3852 submitted by Senators DeMint and Vitter, from being offered to S. 3217, the Restoring American Financial Stability Act of 2010.

Senate amendment 3852 is the latest attempt to extend the failed policy of building more border walls along our southwest border. The amendment has nothing to do with the issue of financial reform and threatens to play politics with the important goals of the underlying legislation. Further, authorizing the additional construction of more than three hundred miles of walls would have far reaching consequences, negatively impacting communities, the environment, and the American taxpayer.

More than \$2.6 billion of taxpayer money has already been used to construct nearly 650 miles of border walls and barriers. While the efficacy of building walls has never even been studied, its impacts have been widely felt. Existing border walls have separated communities and families, cut through significant cultural sites and historic lands, caused damaging floods and erosion, and fractured habitat and migration corridors vital to wildlife pushed to the brink of extinction. These impacts are even more pronounced in light of the inability of a fence to solve our broken immigration system. If Congress perceives that the purpose of border walls is to seal the border from illegal activity, then the program is, and will continue to be, a costly failure.

Again, on behalf of the undersigned organizations and the various values we work to protect, we urge you to prevent the harmful and irrelevant provisions of SA 3852 from coming to a vote.

Thank you for your consideration,

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