

VICENTE GONZALEZ  
15TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INVESTOR PROTECTION,  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP AND CAPITAL MARKETS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON HOUSING, COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT AND INSURANCE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON WESTERN HEMISPHERE,  
CIVILIAN SECURITY, AND TRADE

SUBCOMMITTEE ON EUROPE, EURASIA, ENERGY,  
AND THE ENVIRONMENT

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4315

WASHINGTON OFFICE  
113 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2531

MCALLEN OFFICE  
1305 W. HACKBERRY AVENUE  
MCALLEN, TX 78501  
(956) 682-5545

gonzalez.house.gov

April 16, 2019

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Trump,

I am writing to follow up on our recent conversation about border security. As you may recall, I joined fellow members of the Problem Solvers Caucus to discuss viable border security options with you at the White House earlier this year. During that meeting, I informed you that our ally, Guatemala, was also concerned about the massive outmigration of its citizenry and willing to be part of the solution to decrease outmigration and secure our borders.

Guatemalan President Jimmy Morales has indicated that he would welcome the introduction of U.S. troops on Guatemala's northern border. Migrants from the Northern Triangle must first traverse the Guatemala-Mexico border on their journey north. Reports indicate that Mexico apprehended nearly 524,000 migrants and asylum seekers from the Northern Triangle between 2015 and November 2018. U.S. Customs and Border Protection apprehended 1,954,903 migrants at our southwestern border during that same time period. If you want to see fewer apprehensions at the U.S.-Mexico border, I would strongly encourage you to seriously consider President Morales' offer.

Deploying additional resources to this region for border security and immigration control is not a new idea. In fact, the United States has provided Mexico with foreign assistance to fulfill this very objective through the Merida Initiative since Fiscal Year 2008. Instead of expanding this effort, you have directed troops and border protection personnel to our own border and cancelled all aid to Northern Triangle countries, including Guatemala. While I disagree with these decisions, I understand your frustration with the current situation and your desire to see a better return on the United States' investment in the region. Working with President Morales to secure Guatemala's northern border would be a great first step toward achieving our common goals of creating a safer, more prosperous continent and stemming the flow of illegal immigration, and I urge you to contact him to discuss this and other creative solutions without delay.

I appreciate your consideration of this request and look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress