

1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20229



## U.S. Customs and Border Protection

*Commissioner*

MAY 21 2026

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Doggett:

Thank you for your March 27, 2026, letter to the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding border barrier construction in U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Border Patrol's (USBP) Big Bend Sector in Texas. I am responding on behalf of the Department.

As stated in your letter, the Big Bend area contains some of the most unique and important scenery and archeological landscapes in Texas, and it is valued accordingly. Big Bend National Park and its related areas also provide support for the local and regional economy. DHS recognizes this along with the intrinsic importance these areas hold for Texans and others who visit and enjoy them.

Border security measures in the Big Bend National Park or the Big Bend Ranch State Park will be adapted to the terrain; and they will use technology, such as cameras and sensors, along with a limited number of low-profile vehicle barriers and patrol roads strategically placed to leverage the landscape that serves as a natural deterrent. Additionally, lighting will not be installed due to environmental considerations and operational requirements. Instead, CBP will use infrared illuminators on cameras for visibility in the dark.

CBP and DHS remain committed to ongoing consultation with federal and state partners, as well as other interested community stakeholders, during the planning and construction process. In addition to soliciting public feedback and collaborating with state and federal agencies, CBP works to mitigate or avoid environmental impacts by conducting environmental and cultural resource field surveys and reviews before and during new border barrier construction projects. CBP's goal is to balance operational needs with responsible stewardship of the land and minimize harm to the greatest extent practicable in accordance with applicable law while still meeting CBP's operational requirements. CBP will continue to coordinate with the National Park Service, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and other federal and state agencies throughout the planning process.

The Honorable Lloyd Doggett

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The cosigners of your letter will receive a separate, identical response. Should you need additional assistance, please contact me, or have a member of your staff contact Matthew Eagan, Assistant Commissioner, Office of Congressional Affairs at 202-344-1760 or by email at [OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:OCAInquiry@cbp.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rodney S. Scott". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent initial "R" and "S".

Rodney S. Scott  
Commissioner