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Chief Manuel Padilla Jr.
2430 S. Swan Road
Tucson, AZ 85711

Dear Chief Manuel Padilla Jr.:

I am writing in support of the recent petition by Arivaca residents to eliminate the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint which has been occurring on Arivaca Road in Amado, Arizona. This checkpoint was originally created to be temporary, but has been in continual for over six years.

The Arivaca community has shared with me various concerns, such as the severe economic impact on the local residents, the increase in militarization that has proven to increase migrant deaths and numerous violations of the constitutional rights of U.S. citizens.

The signatures of over 240 residents of the Arivaca community as well as ten local businesses have been gathered to date, and signature collections are ongoing. Given that the adult population of Arivaca is just over 600 people, this petition represents the position of a significant portion of the Arivaca community. Arivaca residents requested you respond to their petition by January 8th, 2014, but they have not heard from you to this date.

I respectfully request a thorough review and full consideration of the petition. We are committed to working with you to ensure the safety of the Amado community, and welcome your thoughts on this matter.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

[To Be Delivered To Manuel Padilla Jr., Border Patrol Tucson Sector Chief]

We the undersigned residents of Arivaca, Arizona hereby petition for the immediate removal of the U.S. Border Patrol checkpoint on Arivaca Road in Amado, Arizona.

Though it was originally created as a tactical and temporary checkpoint, the Arivaca Road checkpoint has been in continual use at the same location for over six years while having no demonstrable effect on its stated purpose—to deter undocumented immigration. Instead, the checkpoint has had the following negative impacts:

-The checkpoint severely interferes with the constitutional rights of local residents.

Residents are intimidated by armed federal agents and subjected to improper questioning and warrantless searches in violation of their 4th, 5th and 14th Amendment rights. It is not possible for Arivaca residents to leave northbound without passing through one of three area checkpoints. Thus, locals must pass through the checkpoint with regularity, sometimes daily, such that these constitutional rights violations are not merely occasional or minor inconveniences but rather frequent and substantial infringements. People of color experience greater scrutiny and longer detentions at the checkpoint; such racial profiling violates the law as well as the federal government's own guidelines prohibiting any consideration of race or ethnicity in such encounters.

-The checkpoint has a severe economic impact on the local residents.

The checkpoint implies that the area is dangerous to the public, deterring visitors, reducing tourism and dampening economic activity for Arivaca businesses and residents, despite the fact that the surrounding area is among the safest in the state (neighborhoodscout.com/az/crime/). The checkpoint also diminishes local property values. A 2012 study concluded that the nearby I-19 checkpoint is "associated with fairly large negative impacts on the difference in housing prices... and those negative impacts are increasing over time" (*Arizona Republic*, December 28, 2012).

-The checkpoint is part of the increasing militarization of border communities.

The Arivaca Road checkpoint is part of a misguided border enforcement strategy that increases the tragic and unnecessary deaths of migrants, leading to a humanitarian crisis, which extends into the Arivaca community and beyond. Consequently, a generation of Arivaca children and young people are growing up in this militarized zone, where they are taught by experience that the erosion of civil and human rights, freedoms and quality of life is acceptable.

At great cost to local residents and U.S. taxpayers, the checkpoint on Arivaca Road has resulted in nothing but fear, anger and mistrust, perpetuating the fiction that increased militarization and the creation of "constitution free zones" are the best and only ways to respond to the complex economic and social issues of the borderlands.

For all of these reasons, this checkpoint must go.