

**JOINT RESOLUTION OF THE ARIZONA BORDER PORT AUTHORITIES
ON THE IMPORTANCE OF THE BORDER FOR TRADE, TOURISM, AND SECURITY,
AND THE NEED TO ELEVATE COMMUNITY NEEDS AS STATE AND NATIONAL PRIORITIES**

TUCSON, ARIZONA
SEPTEMBER 18, 2023

WHEREAS Arizona's relationship with Mexico is the example to follow in North America and beyond for cross-border collaboration and cooperation;

WHEREAS Arizona's trade with and tourism from Mexico are a significant contributor to Arizona's economy;

WHEREAS, in 2022, trade with Mexico reached \$19.6 billion, and that the first half of 2023 shows an annualized growth rate of 5.5%;

WHEREAS, in 2022, more than 810 trains, 452,000 trucks, 9.4 million cars and 22.6 million people crossed the border from Mexico into Arizona, and data to date for 2023 indicates that border crossing volumes have returned or exceeded pre-pandemic levels;

WHEREAS the three border communities of Douglas, Nogales and San Luis are the principal gateways for Arizona's trade with and tourism from Mexico and the effective, efficient, and safe flow of goods and people at these locations are essential to the local, regional, and national economy;

WHEREAS the border communities are the most impacted by state and federal policies pertaining to the border, and, as demonstrated during the pandemic, are essential to the nation's supply chain, food supply and national security;

WHEREAS, more and more each day, communities throughout Arizona, regional supply chains and the Arizona-Sonora Megaregion recognize the importance of the cross-border flows of both goods and people;

WHEREAS once you consider the volumes and impacts of the thousands of crossers each day, communities like Douglas, Nogales, and San Luis, have impacts to their roads, infrastructure and public services that are equivalent to those of much larger communities;

WHEREAS ports of entry and the road infrastructure that connects them to the federal highway system are critical assets to Arizona and the nation;

WHEREAS the border communities work hand in hand with their sister communities on the Mexican side of the border, creating unique sister cities of Douglas/Agua Prieta, Ambos Nogales, and San Luis/San Luis Rio Colorado;

WHEREAS Customs and Border Protection faces a number of challenges in the recruitment and hiring of personnel for sworn officers and personnel that provides clerical and logistical support for operations at ports of entry on the border with Mexico;

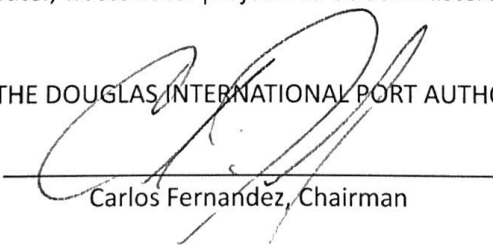
WHEREAS the binational nature of border communities creates issues that other communities in Arizona do not have to address and border communities are at the forefront of our nation's security; and

WHEREAS the border port authorities that include the Douglas International Port Authority, the Greater Nogales and Santa Cruz County Port Authority, and the Greater Yuma Port Authority have common goals of improving the ports of entry and contributing to the economic development and quality of life of their respective communities and have been effective community advocates for many years;

NOW THEREFORE, in the City of Tucson, Arizona, on this the 18th day of September of the year 2023, the Arizona border port authorities, during a joint session of the respective Boards of Directors, **JOINTLY RESOLVE THAT:**

- The Port Authorities agree to unite their voices to advocate for the needs of the border communities and for the betterment of the Arizona-Sonora Megaregion.
- Ports of entry and their connectivity to the highway system in both countries need to be recognized as state and national priorities.
- That the model that is utilized to determine the staffing needs at each port of entry be updated to reflect the new realities of the border.
- That a pilot program be created to promote local hiring of sworn officers and clerical/logistical support staff at ports of entry.
- The governments of the United States and Mexico create regional technical mechanisms that ensure the proper alignment and development of ports of entry to maximize the return on federal, state, and local investments.
- Request that US Customs and Border Protection look for ways to streamline the recruitment process for new personnel which currently exceeds 12 months.
- The Port Authorities establish a working dialogue with local electric, water, and broadband service providers to ensure that they consider the sustainable growth of the communities.
- Request that the federal government create a priority funding program for infrastructure projects that are necessary and essential for the safe and efficient operation of ports of entry, including funding for water, wastewater projects to be administered by the North American Development Bank.

FOR THE DOUGLAS INTERNATIONAL PORT AUTHORITY



Carlos Fernandez, Chairman

FOR THE GREATER NOGALES AND SANTA CRUZ COUNTY PORT AUTHORITY



Jaime Chamberlain, Chairman

FOR THE GREATER YUMA PORT AUTHORITY



Matias Rosales, Chairman