

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 2, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to urge you to approve the Laredo 4/5 International Bridge (Bridge 4/5) presidential permit application submitted by Southwebb Bridge Company in Webb County, Texas.

Mexico is a vital trading partner not only for Texas but for the entire United States. In 2023, \$807 billion worth of goods moved across the U.S. southern border, making Mexico our country's top trading partner.¹ The Texas Department of Transportation estimates that nearly 70 percent of commercial motor vehicles coming to the U.S. from Mexico cross through Texas.² Bridge 4/5 would strengthen the cross-border transportation network with a new cross-border trade bridge and land port of entry. The project would also support jobs and economic development in Texas and enhance the U.S.-Mexico trade relationship.

Section 5414 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2024 (NDAA) established a process for your administration to issue presidential permits for international bridge projects in Webb, Cameron, and Maverick counties in Texas submitted between December 1, 2020, and December 31, 2024.³ At the time you signed the NDAA into law there were four international bridges eligible under this provision, three of which you approved on May 31, 2024. Our understanding is that the State Department considered the presidential permit application for Bridge 4/5 complete on June 6, 2024, and submitted a recommendation to you on August 5.

We strongly urge you to swiftly approve the presidential permit for Bridge 4/5, which will bolster trade with Mexico, improve supply chain resiliency, and create good paying jobs in Texas.

¹ Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, "U.S. Relations with Mexico; Bilateral Relations Fact Sheet," U.S. Department of State, September 16, 2024: <https://www.state.gov/u-s-relations-with-mexico/#:~:text=Mexico%20was%20the%20United%20States,with%20China%20totalled%20%24576%20billion.>

² Transportation Planning and Programming Division, "2024 Border District Trade Transportation Report," Texas Department of Transportation, January 2024: <https://ftp.dot.state.tx.us/pub/txdot.gov/trade-transportation-activities.pdf>.

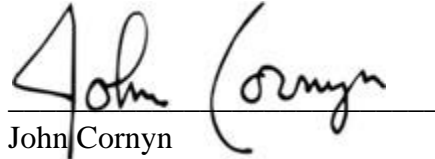
³ Pub. L. No. 118-31

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ted Cruz
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator