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12  
13 IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
14 FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
15  
16

17 **STATE OF CALIFORNIA; STATE OF**  
18 **COLORADO; STATE OF**  
19 **CONNECTICUT; STATE OF**  
20 **DELAWARE; STATE OF HAWAII;**  
21 **STATE OF ILLINOIS; STATE OF**  
22 **MAINE; STATE OF MARYLAND;**  
23 **ATTORNEY GENERAL DANA NESSEL**  
24 **ON BEHALF OF THE PEOPLE OF**  
25 **MICHIGAN; STATE OF MINNESOTA;**  
26 **STATE OF NEVADA; STATE OF NEW**  
27 **JERSEY; STATE OF NEW MEXICO;**  
28 **STATE OF NEW YORK; STATE OF**  
**OREGON; and COMMONWEALTH OF**  
**VIRGINIA;**

Plaintiffs,

v.

**DONALD J. TRUMP**, in his official capacity  
as President of the United States of America;  
**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA; U.S.**

Case No.

**COMPLAINT FOR DECLARATORY  
AND INJUNCTIVE RELIEF**

1 **DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE; PATRICK**  
2 **M. SHANAHAN**, in his official capacity as  
3 Acting Secretary of Defense; **MARK T.**  
4 **ESPER**, in his official capacity as Secretary of  
5 the Army; **RICHARD V. SPENCER**, in his  
6 official capacity as Secretary of the Navy;  
7 **HEATHER WILSON**, in her official capacity  
8 as Secretary of the Air Force; **U.S.**  
9 **DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY;**  
10 **STEVEN T. MNUCHIN**, in his official  
11 capacity as Secretary of the Department of the  
12 Treasury; **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE**  
13 **INTERIOR; DAVID BERNHARDT**, in his  
14 official capacity as Acting Secretary of the  
15 Interior; **U.S. DEPARTMENT OF**  
16 **HOMELAND SECURITY; KIRSTJEN M.**  
17 **NIELSEN**, in her official capacity as Secretary  
18 of Homeland Security;  
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Defendants.

1 **INTRODUCTION**

2 1. The States of California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Hawaii, Illinois,  
3 Maine, Maryland, Minnesota, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, the  
4 Commonwealth of Virginia, and Attorney General Dana Nessel on behalf of the People of  
5 Michigan (collectively, “Plaintiff States”), bring this action to protect their residents, natural  
6 resources, and economic interests from President Donald J. Trump’s flagrant disregard of  
7 fundamental separation of powers principles engrained in the United States Constitution.  
8 Contrary to the will of Congress, the President has used the pretext of a manufactured “crisis” of  
9 unlawful immigration to declare a national emergency and redirect federal dollars appropriated  
10 for drug interdiction, military construction, and law enforcement initiatives toward building a  
11 wall on the United States-Mexico border. This includes the diversion of funding that each of the  
12 Plaintiff States receive. Defendants must be enjoined from carrying out President Trump’s  
13 unconstitutional and unlawful scheme.

14 2. President Trump has veered the country toward a constitutional crisis of his own  
15 making. For years, President Trump has repeatedly stated his intention to build a wall across the  
16 United States-Mexico border. Congress has repeatedly rebuffed the President’s insistence to fund  
17 a border wall, recently resulting in a record 35-day partial government shutdown over the border  
18 wall dispute.<sup>1</sup> After the government reopened, Congress approved, and the President signed into  
19 law, a \$1.375 billion appropriation for fencing along the southern border, but Congress made  
20 clear that funding could not be used to build President Trump’s proposed border wall.

21 3. After an agreement was reached on the spending bill to prevent another  
22 government shutdown, on February 15, 2019, President Trump declared an intention to redirect  
23 federal funds toward the construction of a border wall. On the same day, the Administration  
24 announced an executive action (“Executive Action,”) to make up to \$6.7 billion in additional  
25 funding available for construction of the border wall, including through the declaration of a

26 \_\_\_\_\_  
27 <sup>1</sup> References to “border wall” in this Complaint refer to any barrier or border-related  
28 infrastructure and/or project relating to the construction of a barrier or border-related  
infrastructure along the southern border that President Trump has called for and has not been  
approved by Congress.

1 national emergency under the National Emergencies Act (“Emergency Declaration,” combined  
2 with the “Executive Action,” the “Executive Actions”).

3 4. Use of those additional federal funds for the construction of a border wall is  
4 contrary to Congress’s intent in violation of the U.S. Constitution, including the Presentment  
5 Clause and Appropriations Clause. Such use would divert counter-drug programming funds  
6 directed to the states, and military construction funds to be spent in the states, for the non-  
7 appropriated purpose of constructing a border wall. Even if the Administration could  
8 constitutionally redirect funds toward the construction of the border wall, the Administration does  
9 not satisfy the criteria in the statutes that it invokes to enable it to do so.

10 5. If the Administration were to use the funding sources identified in the Executive  
11 Actions, Plaintiff States collectively stand to lose millions in federal funding that their national  
12 guard units receive for domestic drug interdiction and counter-drug activities, and millions of  
13 dollars received on an annual basis for law enforcement programs from the Treasury Forfeiture  
14 Fund, harming the public safety of Plaintiff States. The redirection of funding from authorized  
15 military construction projects located in Plaintiff States will cause damage to their economies.  
16 Plaintiff States will face harm to their proprietary interests by the diversion of funding from  
17 military construction projects for the States’ national guard units. And the construction of a wall  
18 along California’s and New Mexico’s southern borders will cause irreparable environmental  
19 damage to those States’ natural resources.

20 6. There is also no objective basis for President Trump’s Emergency Declaration. By  
21 the President’s own admission, an emergency declaration is not necessary. The federal  
22 government’s own data prove there is no national emergency at the southern border that warrants  
23 construction of a wall. Customs and Border Protection (“CBP”) data show that unlawful entries  
24 are near 45-year lows. The State Department recognizes there is a lack of credible evidence that  
25 terrorists are using the southern border to enter the United States. Federal data confirm that  
26 immigrants are less likely to commit crimes than are native-born Americans. CBP data  
27 demonstrate that dangerous drugs are much more likely to be smuggled through, not between,  
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1 official ports of entry—rendering a border wall ineffectual at preventing their entry into this  
2 country.

3 7. Notwithstanding the illegality of and wholesale lack of necessity for the  
4 Emergency Declaration, the Trump Administration has expressed its intent to move quickly with  
5 the construction of the border wall. A senior advisor to the White House reportedly said the  
6 Administration will proceed with construction at a speed that will “shock” people. The thwarting  
7 of congressional intent to fund a vanity project that not only will fail to safeguard national  
8 security, but is positioned to cause significant harm to the public safety, public fisc, environment,  
9 and well-being of Plaintiff States’ residents, cries out for judicial intervention.

10 8. For these reasons, and those discussed below, the Court should declare that the  
11 Executive Actions directing the diversion of federal funds and other resources for border wall  
12 construction are unlawful and unconstitutional, and enjoin Defendants from taking any action in  
13 furtherance of President Trump’s Executive Actions.

#### 14 **JURISDICTION, VENUE, AND INTRADISTRICT ASSIGNMENT**

15 9. This Court has jurisdiction because this action arises under the United States  
16 Constitution and the laws of the United States. This Court also has jurisdiction under 28 U.S.C.  
17 sections 1331 and 2201.

18 10. An actual, present, and justiciable controversy exists between the parties within the  
19 meaning of 28 U.S.C. section 2201(a), and this Court has authority to grant declaratory and  
20 injunctive relief under 28 U.S.C. sections 2201 and 2202.

21 11. Venue is proper in this judicial district under 28 U.S.C. section 1391(e) because  
22 the California Attorney General and the State of California have offices at 455 Golden Gate  
23 Avenue, San Francisco, California and at 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, California, and therefore  
24 reside in this district, and no real property is involved in this action. This is a civil action in  
25 which Defendants are agencies of the United States or officers of such an agency.

26 12. Assignment to the San Francisco Division of this District is proper pursuant to  
27 Civil Local Rule 3-2(c)-(d) and 3-5(b) because Plaintiff State of California and Defendant United  
28 States both maintain offices in the District in San Francisco.

1 **PARTIES**

2 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

3 13. The State of California, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
4 sovereign state of the United States of America.

5 14. Attorney General Xavier Becerra is the chief law officer of the State of California  
6 and has the authority to file civil actions to protect California’s rights and interests, the  
7 environment, and the natural resources of this State. Cal. Const., art. V, § 13; Cal. Gov’t Code  
8 §§ 12511, 12600-12. This challenge is brought pursuant to the Attorney General’s independent  
9 constitutional, common law, and statutory authority.

10 15. Governor Gavin Newsom is the chief executive officer of the State. The Governor  
11 is responsible for overseeing the operations of the State and ensuring that its laws are faithfully  
12 executed. As the leader of the executive branch, the Governor is the chief of California’s  
13 executive branch agencies, including those whose injuries are discussed in this Complaint. Cal.  
14 Const., art. V, § 1. Governor Newsom is the Commander-in-Chief of the California National  
15 Guard. Cal. Const., art. V, § 7; Cal. Mil. & Vet. Code § 550 et seq.

16 16. California, as one of several affected states located within President Trump’s  
17 declared “national emergency” southern border area, has an interest in ensuring public safety  
18 within its borders and protecting its economic interests and the rights of its residents. California  
19 shares over 140 miles of its southern border with Mexico.<sup>2</sup> The orderly flow of goods and people  
20 across the border is a critical element in California’s success as the fifth-largest economy in the  
21 world.

22 17. California is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring this  
23 action because of the injury due to the loss of federal drug interdiction, counter-narcotic, and law-  
24 enforcement funding to the State caused by Defendants’ diversion of funding.

25 18. The threat of losing funding to conduct drug interdiction and counter-narcotic  
26 activity prevents California from moving forward with critical criminal narcotics programs and

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>2</sup> Janice Cheryl Beaver, *U.S. International Borders: Brief Facts*, Cong. Res. Serv. (Nov. 9,  
2006), <https://tinyurl.com/y49jq9vv>.

1 threatens the public safety of all Californians. The diversion of funding from the Treasury  
2 Forfeiture Fund will harm public safety by impacting critically necessary funding for law  
3 enforcement officers and their agencies.

4 19. California is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring this  
5 action because of the injury to the State and its residents caused by Defendants' reduction of  
6 federal defense spending in California due to diversion of funding to the border wall.

7 20. California has an interest in protecting the economic health and well-being of its  
8 residents. *Alfred L. Snapp & Son, Inc. v. Puerto Rico ex rel. Barez*, 458 U.S. 592, 607 (1982).

9 21. California has an interest in preventing the diminution of specific tax revenues  
10 caused by reduced construction on California military installations and the corresponding  
11 reduction in economic activity. *Wyoming v. Oklahoma*, 502 U.S. 437, 448-50 (1992).

12 22. California has an interest in its exercise of sovereign power over individuals and  
13 entities within the State, including enforcement of its legal code. *Snapp*, 458 U.S. at 601; *Hawaii*  
14 *v. Trump*, 859 F.3d 741, 765 (9th Cir. 2017), *rev'd on other grounds*, 138 S. Ct. 2392 (2018).

15 23. The diversion of military construction funding for projects supporting or used by  
16 California's National Guard units harms the State.

17 24. The diversion of military construction funding from projects in California will  
18 harm California's economy.

19 25. The State would suffer economic harm from diversion of funding from military  
20 construction projects on California bases. More defense contractor funding is spent in California  
21 than in any other state, and such funding generates significant state and local tax revenues,  
22 employment, and economic activity.

23 26. California has an interest in the natural resources of this State—such as wildlife,  
24 fish, and water—that are held in trust by the State for its residents. *Sierra Forest Legacy v.*  
25 *Sherman*, 646 F.3d 1161, 1178 (9th Cir. 2011).

26 27. In the areas of California's borderlands where construction of a border wall is most  
27 likely, dozens of sensitive plant and animal species that are listed as "endangered," "threatened,"  
28 or "rare" will be seriously at risk.

1           28. Defendants’ diversion of funding to construct a wall along the southern border will  
2 create environmental harm and deprive California of its procedural right to protect its public trust  
3 resources.

4           29. Defendants’ unconstitutional actions undermine California’s sovereignty and harm  
5 the State through their effects on California residents, businesses, and the environment.

6                                   **PLAINTIFF STATE OF COLORADO**

7           30. The State of Colorado is a sovereign state of the United States of America.

8           31. The State of Colorado brings this action by and through its Attorney General,  
9 Philip J. Weiser. The Attorney General has authority to represent the State, its departments, and  
10 its agencies, and “shall appear for the state and prosecute and defend all actions and proceedings,  
11 civil and criminal, in which the state is a party.” Colo. Rev. Stat. § 24-31-101.

12           32. The State of Colorado will suffer injury because of the actions of Defendants and  
13 has standing to bring this action for at least two reasons.

14           33. First, Defendants intend to fund the wall using money from the Pentagon’s drug  
15 interdiction program, which will likely impact funding to Colorado and affect Colorado’s ability  
16 to address drugs illegal under state law in Colorado.

17           34. Second, Colorado is home to many major military bases, including the Air Force  
18 Academy, Buckley Air Force Base, Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Base, Peterson Air Force  
19 Base, Schriever Air Force Base, and Fort Carson Army Base. These military bases play a critical  
20 role in our nation’s defense and to the economy of the State of Colorado. The use of funding for  
21 a southern border wall rather than for necessary maintenance and repairs to these military bases  
22 harms Colorado and its economy.

23                                   **PLAINTIFF STATE OF CONNECTICUT**

24           35. The State of Connecticut, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
25 sovereign state of the United States of America.

26           36. Attorney General William Tong is the chief legal officer of the State of  
27 Connecticut and has the authority to file civil actions to protect Connecticut’s rights and interests.  
28 Conn. Const., art. IV, § 4; Conn. Gen. Stat. §§ 3-124 et seq. This challenge is brought pursuant to



1 the Attorney General's authority and responsibility to protect Connecticut's sovereign, quasi-  
2 sovereign, and proprietary interests.

3 37. Governor Ned Lamont is the chief executive officer of the State. The Governor is  
4 responsible for overseeing the operations of the State and ensuring that its laws are faithfully  
5 executed. As the leader of the executive branch, the Governor is the chief of Connecticut's  
6 executive branch agencies, including those whose injuries are discussed in this Complaint. Conn.  
7 Const. art IV, § 5.

8 38. On information and belief, Connecticut is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants  
9 and has standing to bring this action because of the injury caused by Defendants' unlawful and  
10 unconstitutional diversion of funding from military construction projects in Connecticut to  
11 construction of a border wall in Texas, Arizona, New Mexico, and California. Defendants'  
12 actions will hurt Connecticut's economy and, by damaging the State's critical security  
13 infrastructure, threaten the safety of Connecticut's National Guard and of all Connecticut  
14 residents.

15 39. Further, on information and belief, Defendants' diversion of funding aimed at drug  
16 interdiction and counter-narcotic activity threatens to hurt the State's law enforcement agencies  
17 and compromise the public safety of all Connecticut residents.

18 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF DELAWARE**

19 40. The State of Delaware, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
20 sovereign state of the United States of America.

21 41. Attorney General Kathleen Jennings is the chief legal officer of the State of  
22 Delaware and has the authority to file civil actions to protect Delaware's rights and the rights of  
23 Delaware citizens. 29 *Del. C.* § 2504. The Attorney General's powers and duties include  
24 litigating matters in our nation's federal courts on matters of public interest. The Attorney  
25 General has the authority to file suit to challenge action by the federal government that threatens  
26 the public interest and welfare of Delaware residents as a matter of constitutional, statutory, and  
27 common law authority.  
28



1 diversion of funding. The loss of funding to conduct drug interdiction and counter-narcotic  
2 activity threatens the public safety of all Hawaii residents.

3 49. The diversion of funding from military construction projects and drug interdiction  
4 programs in Hawaii will harm Hawaii residents by depleting Hawaii's economy and draining  
5 Hawaii of needed law enforcement resources. Defense spending, which would include military  
6 construction projects, is the second largest segment of Hawaii's economy and represents a  
7 significant portion of the State's Gross Domestic Product. On information and belief, Hawaii is  
8 at risk of losing in excess of \$300 million in military construction funds.

9 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF ILLINOIS**

10 50. The State of Illinois is a sovereign state of the United States of America.

11 51. This action is being brought on behalf of the State by Attorney General Kwame  
12 Raoul, the State's chief legal officer. *See* Ill. Const., Art. 5, § 15; 15 Ill. Comp. Stat. 205/4.

13 52. J. B. Pritzker is the governor of Illinois, and under Illinois law has the "supreme  
14 executive power" and the duty to ensure "the faithful execution of the laws." Ill. Const., Art. V, §  
15 8.

16 53. On information and belief, Illinois is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and  
17 has standing to bring this action because of the injury due to the loss of federal funding to the  
18 State caused by Defendants' diversion of funding. The loss of funding to conduct drug  
19 interdiction and counter-narcotics activity threatens the public safety of all Illinois residents.

20 54. On information and belief, Illinois is also aggrieved by the actions of Defendants  
21 and has standing to bring this action because of the injury due to the loss of federal funding  
22 resulting from the diversion of military construction projects from Illinois to the construction of a  
23 border wall on the nation's southern border.

24 55. In filing this action, the Attorney General seeks to protect the residents and  
25 agencies of Illinois from harm caused by Defendants' illegal conduct, prevent further harm, and  
26 seek redress for the injuries caused to Illinois by Defendants' actions. Those injuries include  
27 harm to Illinois's sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and proprietary interests.  
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1 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF MAINE**

2 56. The State of Maine, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
3 sovereign state of United States of America.

4 57. The Attorney General of Maine, Aaron M. Frey, is a constitutional officer with the  
5 authority to represent the State of Maine in all matters, and serves as its chief legal officer with  
6 general charge, supervision, and direction of the State’s legal business. Me. Const. art. IX, Sec.  
7 11; 5 M.R.S., §§ 191 *et seq.* The Attorney General’s powers and duties include acting on behalf  
8 of the State and the people of Maine in the federal courts on matters of public interest. The  
9 Attorney General has the authority to file suit to challenge action by the federal government that  
10 threatens the public interest and welfare of Maine residents as a matter of constitutional, statutory,  
11 and common law authority.

12 58. The Governor of Maine, Janet T. Mills, is the chief executive officer of the State.  
13 The Governor is responsible for overseeing the operations of the State and ensuring that its laws  
14 are faithfully executed. As the leader of the executive branch, the Governor is the chief of  
15 Maine’s executive branch agencies, including those whose injuries are discussed in this  
16 Complaint. Me. Const. art V, § 1. Governor Mills is the Commander-in-Chief of the Maine  
17 National Guard. 37-B M.R.S. §§ 103 *et seq.*

18 59. Maine is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring this  
19 action because of the injury due to the loss of federal funding to the State caused by Defendants’  
20 diversion of funding.

21 60. Maine is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring this  
22 action because of the injury to the State and its residents caused by Defendants’ reduction of  
23 federal defense spending in Maine due to diversion of funding to the border wall.

24 61. Maine has an interest in protecting the health, safety, and well being of its  
25 residents, including protecting its residents from harms to their economic health.

26 62. Maine has an interest in the State’s economic vitality and workforce.

27 63. Maine has an interest in preventing diminution of its tax revenues.

28 64. The diversion of military construction funding from authorized projects in Maine

1 will harm Maine's economy.

2 65. The State would suffer economic harm from diversion of funding from authorized  
3 military construction projects in Maine.

4 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF MARYLAND**

5 66. The State of Maryland is a sovereign state of the United States of America.  
6 Maryland is represented by and through its chief legal officer, the Attorney General of Maryland  
7 Brian E. Frosh. Under the Constitution of Maryland, and as directed by the Maryland General  
8 Assembly, the Attorney General has the authority to file suit to challenge action by the federal  
9 government that threatens the public interest and welfare of Maryland residents. Md. Const. art.  
10 V, § 3(a)(2); 2017 Md. Laws, J. Res. 1.

11 67. Maryland is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring this  
12 action due to the loss of federal funding to the State caused by Defendants' diversion of federal  
13 funds. The loss of funding to conduct drug interdiction and counter-narcotic activity would  
14 threaten the public safety of all Marylanders.

15 68. Maryland is also aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring  
16 this action because of the injury due to the diversion of funding for military construction projects.  
17 On information and belief, Maryland stands to lose up to \$513 million in military construction  
18 funding for currently planned projects at Fort Meade and Joint Base Andrews.

19 **PLAINTIFF ATTORNEY GENERAL DANA NESSEL ON BEHALF**  
20 **OF THE PEOPLE OF MICHIGAN**

21 69. The People of Michigan are the sovereign of one of the states of the United States  
22 and are represented by and through the Attorney General Dana Nessel.

23 70. Attorney General Dana Nessel is the chief legal officer of the State of Michigan  
24 and her powers and duties include acting in federal court in matters of concern to the People of  
25 Michigan, to protect Michigan residents. *Fieger v. Cox*, 734 N.W.2d 602, 604 (Mich. Ct. App.  
26 2007); Mich. Comp. Laws §§ 14.28, 14.101. This action is brought to protect the interests of the  
27 People of Michigan.

28 71. The Michigan National Guard has over 10,000 soldiers and airmen, employs a

1 substantial number of employees on a full-time basis, and operates over 40 facilities in the state.  
2 The Michigan Department of Military and Veterans Affairs receives a majority of its funding  
3 from the federal government. On information and belief, it performs missions training and  
4 prepares citizen soldiers and airmen to respond to, among other things, state emergencies,  
5 military support, and protection of local communities. Loss of funding negatively impacts this  
6 vital service for the People of Michigan.

7 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF MINNESOTA**

8 72. The State of Minnesota, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
9 sovereign state of the United States of America.

10 73. Attorney General Keith Ellison is the chief legal officer of the State of Minnesota  
11 and his powers and duties include acting in federal court in matters of State concern and to protect  
12 Minnesota residents. Minn. Stat. § 8.01. This action is brought to protect Minnesota's sovereign,  
13 quasi-sovereign, and proprietary interests.

14 74. Governor Tim Walz is the chief executive officer of the State of Minnesota,  
15 custodian of state property and federal funds made available to the State, and the Commander-in-  
16 Chief of the state military. Minn. Const., art. V, § 3; Minn. Stat. §§ 4.01 & .07. As the chief  
17 executive officer and Commander-in-Chief of the State of Minnesota, Governor Walz leads  
18 executive branch agencies injured by the actions described in this Complaint.

19 75. The Minnesota National Guard has over 13,000 soldiers and airmen, employs  
20 more than 2,000 people on a full-time basis, and operates over 60 facilities in the state. The  
21 Minnesota National Guard receives more than 96% of its funding from the federal government. It  
22 performs missions training and prepares citizen soldiers and airmen to respond to, among other  
23 things, the Governor of Minnesota for state emergency response, military support, and protection  
24 of local communities. Loss of funding negatively impacts this vital service for the State of  
25 Minnesota.

26 76. For example, diverting federal funding for the Minnesota National Guard's  
27 counterdrug programs and domestic drug interdiction activities to construct a wall along the  
28 United States-Mexico border would harm Minnesota's law enforcement agencies and

1 compromise the health and safety of Minnesota residents.

2 77. In addition, diverting federal funding from necessary military construction projects  
3 in Minnesota, including National Guard projects, to construct a wall along the United States-  
4 Mexico border would also harm Minnesota, its economy, and its residents.

5 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

6 78. The State of New Jersey is a sovereign state of the United States of America.

7 79. This action is being brought on behalf of the State by Attorney General Gurbir S.  
8 Grewal, the State's chief legal officer. *See* N.J. Stat. Ann. § 52:17A-4(e), (g).

9 80. New Jersey is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to bring  
10 this action because of the injury due to the loss of federal funding to the State caused by  
11 Defendants' diversion of funding. The loss of funding to conduct drug interdiction and counter-  
12 narcotic activity threatens the public safety of all New Jersey residents.

13 81. New Jersey is also aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and has standing to  
14 bring this action because of the injury due to the loss of federal funding resulting from the  
15 diversion of military construction projects from New Jersey to the construction of a border wall  
16 on the nation's southern border.

17 82. In filing this action, the Attorney General seeks to protect the residents and  
18 agencies of New Jersey from harm caused by Defendants' illegal conduct, prevent further harm,  
19 and seek redress for the injuries caused to New Jersey by Defendants' actions. Those injuries  
20 include harm to New Jersey's sovereign, quasi-sovereign, and proprietary interests.

21 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF NEW MEXICO**

22 83. The State of New Mexico, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
23 sovereign state of the United States of America.

24 84. Attorney General Hector Balderas is the chief legal officer of the State of New  
25 Mexico. He is authorized to prosecute all actions and proceedings on behalf of New Mexico  
26 when, in his judgment, the interest of the State requires such action. N.M. Stat. Ann. § 8-5-2(B).  
27 This challenge is brought pursuant to Attorney General Balderas's statutory and common law  
28 authority.

1 85. Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham possesses the “supreme executive power” of  
2 the State of New Mexico. N.M. Const., art. V, § 4. She has the responsibility to execute the laws  
3 of the State and preserve the public peace. *Id.* She also has the authority to oversee the State’s  
4 agencies that will be affected by Defendants’ actions. N.M. Const., art. V, § 5.

5 86. New Mexico is aggrieved by Defendants’ actions and has standing to bring this  
6 lawsuit. Defendants’ diversion of federal funding to conduct drug-interdiction and counter-  
7 narcotics efforts threatens the safety and health of all New Mexicans.

8 87. New Mexico will also be harmed by Defendants’ diversion of military  
9 construction funding. Some \$85 million of this funding currently is allocated to construct a MQ-  
10 9 Formal Training Unit at Holloman Air Force Base in Otero County, New Mexico.<sup>3</sup> Another  
11 \$40 million is allocated to White Sands Missile Range in New Mexico to build an information  
12 systems facility.<sup>4</sup> The loss of these projects would harm New Mexico’s economy, particularly in  
13 the communities surrounding these military installations.

14 88. New Mexico shares over 179 miles of its southern border with Mexico.<sup>5</sup>

15 89. If Defendants use the diverted funding to construct any of their border wall in New  
16 Mexico, it will also impose environmental harm to the State. The environmental damage caused  
17 by a border wall in New Mexico would include the blocking of wildlife migration, flooding, and  
18 habitat loss.<sup>6</sup> Further, this border wall would be constructed on state land, taking the State’s  
19 sovereign property.<sup>7</sup>

20 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF NEVADA**

21 90. The State of Nevada, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
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23 <sup>3</sup> Alamogordo Daily News, *Holloman Getting \$85M for Construction Project* (Feb. 3,  
2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y5u7vx4k>.

24 <sup>4</sup> Miriam U. Rodriguez, WSMR to Build State of the Art Information Systems Facility,  
U.S. Army (Jan. 10, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y3yr24yr>.

25 <sup>5</sup> *U.S. International Borders*, *supra* note 2.

26 <sup>6</sup> See Robert Peters et al., *Nature Divided, Scientists United: US–Mexico Border Wall  
Threatens Biodiversity and Binational Conservation*, 68 *BioScience* 740, 743 (Oct. 2018),  
<https://tinyurl.com/y3t4ymfn>.

27 <sup>7</sup> See Deming Headlight, *N.M. Land Commish Aubrey Dunn Rejects Settlement Offer from  
28 CBP*, (Aug. 17, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y557wpcb>.



1 sovereign state of the United States of America.

2 91. Attorney General Aaron D. Ford is the chief legal officer of the State of Nevada  
3 and has the authority to commence actions in federal court to protect the interests of the State.  
4 Nev. Rev. Stat. 228.170.

5 92. Governor Stephen F. Sisolak is the chief executive officer of the State of Nevada.  
6 The Governor is responsible for overseeing the operations of the State and ensuring that its laws  
7 are faithfully executed. Nev. Const., art. 5, § 1. Governor Sisolak is the Commander-in-Chief of  
8 the Nevada state military forces. Nev. Const., art. 5, § 5.

9 93. On information and belief, Nevada is aggrieved by the actions of Defendants and  
10 has standing to bring this action because of the injury to the State and its residents caused by the  
11 reduction of federal funding to the State due to Defendants' diversion of funding to a southern  
12 border wall.

13 94. Any diversion of military construction funding from Nevada will harm the State's  
14 economy. Nevada is home to several military bases, including Nellis Air Force Base, Creech Air  
15 Force Base, Hawthorne Army Depot Base, and Naval Air Station Fallon. These military bases  
16 play a critical role in our nation's defense and to the State's economy. The use of funding for a  
17 southern border wall rather than for necessary expenses at these military bases harms Nevada and  
18 its economy.

19 95. Any diversion of federal counter-narcotic funding from Nevada will harm the  
20 State. The use of funding for a southern border wall rather than to conduct drug interdiction and  
21 counter-narcotic activity in the State threatens the public safety of all Nevadans.

22 96. Defendants' unconstitutional actions undermine Nevada's sovereignty and harm  
23 the State through their effects on Nevada's residents and its economy.

24 **PLAINTIFF STATE OF NEW YORK**

25 97. The State of New York, represented by and through its Attorney General, is a  
26 sovereign state of the United States of America. The Attorney General is New York State's chief  
27 law enforcement officer and is authorized to pursue this action pursuant to N.Y. Executive Law  
28 § 63.



1 America.

2 105. The Commonwealth of Virginia brings this action by and through its Attorney  
3 General, Mark R. Herring. The Attorney General has authority to represent the Commonwealth,  
4 its departments, and its agencies in “all civil litigation in which any of them are interested.” Va.  
5 Code Ann. § 2.2-507(A).

6 106. On information and belief, the diversion of over 16% of the available military  
7 construction funding harms the Commonwealth of Virginia and provides a basis for standing.  
8 The Commonwealth is home to several military bases, encompassing each branch of service. The  
9 use of funding for a southern border wall rather than for necessary maintenance and repairs to  
10 Virginia’s military bases harms the Commonwealth’s economy and the safety of Virginia’s  
11 service members. Specifically, Virginia stands to lose up to \$131.7 million in military  
12 construction funding for currently planned projects at Dam Neck, Fort A.P. Hill, Fort Belvoir,  
13 Humphreys Engineer Center, Joint Base Langley-Eustis, and the Pentagon.

14 107. On information and belief, the Commonwealth of Virginia would likewise be  
15 aggrieved if President Trump diverts federal drug interdiction and prevention funding from the  
16 states to the southern border wall. This loss of funding—to the tune of approximately \$3 million  
17 in Virginia—to implement counter-narcotics and drug interdiction measures would threaten the  
18 public safety of all Virginians.

19 **DEFENDANTS**

20 108. Defendant Donald J. Trump, the President of the United States of America, is  
21 responsible for the actions and decisions that are being challenged by Plaintiffs in this action and  
22 is sued in his official capacity.

23 109. Defendant United States of America is responsible for enforcing laws that are  
24 consistent with the United States Constitution.

25 110. Defendant Department of Defense (“DOD”) is the federal agency to which  
26 Congress has appropriated the military construction and drug interdiction funding implicated by  
27 the President’s Executive Actions.

28 111. Defendant Patrick M. Shanahan, acting Secretary of Defense, oversees the DOD

1 and is responsible for the actions and decisions that are being challenged by Plaintiffs in this  
2 action. Defendant Shanahan is sued in his official capacity.

3 112. Defendant Mark T. Esper, Secretary of the Army, oversees the United States Army  
4 within DOD, and is responsible for the actions and decisions that are being challenged by  
5 Plaintiffs in this action. Defendant Esper is sued in his official capacity.

6 113. Defendant Richard V. Spencer, Secretary of the Navy, oversees the United States  
7 Navy within DOD, and is responsible for the actions and decisions that are being challenged by  
8 Plaintiffs in this action. Defendant Spencer is sued in his official capacity.

9 114. Defendant Heather A. Wilson, Secretary of the Air Force, oversees the United  
10 States Air Force within DOD, and is responsible for the actions and decisions that are being  
11 challenged by Plaintiffs in this action. Defendant Wilson is sued in her official capacity.

12 115. Defendant Department of the Treasury (the “Treasury”) is the federal agency  
13 responsible for the Treasury Forfeiture Fund that is implicated by the President’s Executive  
14 Actions.

15 116. Defendant Steven T. Mnuchin, Secretary of the Treasury, oversees the Treasury  
16 and is responsible for the actions and decisions that are being challenged by Plaintiffs in this  
17 action. Defendant Mnuchin is sued in his official capacity.

18 117. Defendant Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”) is the federal agency  
19 responsible for providing border security along the United States-Mexico border in a manner that  
20 is consistent with the laws and Constitution of the United States.

21 118. Defendant Kirstjen M. Nielsen, Secretary of DHS, oversees DHS and is  
22 responsible for the actions and decisions that are being challenged by Plaintiffs in this action.  
23 Defendant Nielsen is sued in her official capacity.

24 119. Defendant Department of the Interior (“DOI”) is the federal agency responsible for  
25 managing federal lands.

26 120. Defendant David Bernhardt, acting Secretary of the Interior, oversees the  
27 Department of the Interior, and is responsible for the actions that are being challenged by  
28 Plaintiffs in this action. Defendant Bernhardt is sued in his official capacity.

## FACTUAL ALLEGATIONS

### I. PRESIDENT TRUMP HAS LONG CLAIMED THAT A “CRISIS” AT THE BORDER REQUIRES BUILDING A BORDER WALL, BUT HAS NOT DECLARED A NATIONAL EMERGENCY UNTIL NOW

121. Dating back to at least August 2014, President Trump has advocated for a wall along the southern border.<sup>8</sup>

122. In his speech announcing his candidacy for President in June 2015, President Trump claimed that a border wall is needed to stop a tide of illegal immigration, and that he would build it as President and have Mexico pay for the wall.<sup>9</sup> In the same speech, he also stated, “When Mexico sends its people, they’re not sending their best . . . They’re bringing drugs. They’re bringing crime. They’re rapists.” This claim and his promise to build a wall and have Mexico pay for it became a consistent theme of his campaign.

123. President Trump repeatedly stated that the border wall he planned to build would help prevent terrorism, crime, and drug smuggling. For example, on October 4, 2014, President Trump tweeted, “The fight against ISIS starts at our border. ‘At least’ 10 ISIS have been caught crossing the Mexico border. Build a wall!”<sup>10</sup> More recently, on February 3, 2019, President Trump tweeted, “If there is no Wall, there is no Security. Human Trafficking, Drugs and Criminals of all dimensions - KEEP OUT!”<sup>11</sup>

124. On July 13, 2016, President Trump tweeted, “We will build the wall and MAKE AMERICA SAFE AGAIN!”<sup>12</sup>

125. On August 27, 2016, President Trump tweeted that “[h]eroin overdoses are taking over our children and others in the MIDWEST. Coming in from our southern border. We need strong border & WALL!”<sup>13</sup>

<sup>8</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Aug. 5, 2014, 1:34 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/ydre3ep>.

<sup>9</sup> Time, *Here’s Donald Trump’s Presidential Announcement Speech* (June 16, 2015), <https://tinyurl.com/qzk4wrv>.

<sup>10</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Oct. 8 2014, 2:26 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/yxntlamo>.

<sup>11</sup> *Id.* (Feb. 3, 2019, 2:03 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/yywmw9yx>.

<sup>12</sup> *Id.* (Jul. 13, 2016, 2:56 PM), <https://tinyurl.com/gm8yty6>.

<sup>13</sup> *Id.* (Aug. 27, 2016, 7:17 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/y3f6bp9s>.

1           126. In a speech shortly before the 2016 presidential election, President Trump stated  
2 that “[o]n day one [of his Administration], we will begin working on an impenetrable, physical,  
3 tall, power [sic], beautiful southern border wall” to “help stop the crisis of illegal crossings” and  
4 “stop the drugs and the crime from pouring into our country.”<sup>14</sup>

5           127. As President, President Trump has continued to repeatedly mention the need for  
6 the border wall and his intention to build it.

7           128. On January 27, 2017, President Trump discussed his proposed border wall with  
8 Mexico’s then-President Enrique Peña Nieto, in which he reportedly pressured Mexico to pay for  
9 the border wall and stated that he “[has] been talking about it for a two-year period.”<sup>15</sup>

10           129. On February 28, 2017, President Trump delivered an address to a joint session of  
11 Congress in which he stated that in order to “restore integrity and the rule of law at our  
12 borders . . . we will soon begin the construction of a great, great wall along our southern  
13 border.”<sup>16</sup>

14           130. Additional statements by President Trump regarding the border wall include a  
15 campaign rally speech on August 22, 2017 (“[W]e are building a wall on the southern border  
16 which is absolutely necessary.”),<sup>17</sup> and tweets on January 26, 2017 (“badly needed wall”),<sup>18</sup>  
17 February 23, 2018 (“MS-13 gang members are being removed by our Great ICE and Border  
18 Patrol Agents by the thousands, but these killers come back in from El Salvador, and through  
19 Mexico, like water. . . . We need The Wall!”),<sup>19</sup> June 21, 2018 (“We shouldn’t be hiring judges by  
20 the thousands, as our ridiculous immigration laws demand, we should be changing our laws,  
21

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22           <sup>14</sup> New York Times, *Transcript of Donald Trump’s Immigration Speech* (Sept. 1, 2016),  
23 <https://tinyurl.com/yalom4hl>.

24           <sup>15</sup> Greg Miller, *Trump Urged Mexican President to End His Public Defiance on Border  
25 Wall, Transcript Reveals*, Wash. Post (Aug. 3, 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/y3gqdf2m>.

26           <sup>16</sup> White House, *Remarks by President Trump in Joint Address to Congress* (Feb. 28,  
27 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/y4kvpj7n>.

28           <sup>17</sup> Time, *President Trump Ranted for 77 Minutes in Phoenix. Here’s What He Said* (Aug.  
23, 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/ycxt2woc>.

<sup>18</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Jan. 26, 2017, 5:55 AM),  
<https://tinyurl.com/zm26eaf>.

<sup>19</sup> *Id.* (Feb. 23, 2018, 3:28 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/y9xypa55>.

1 building the Wall, hire Border Agents and Ice [sic] and not let people come into our country  
2 based on the legal phrase they are told to say as their password.”),<sup>20</sup> December 19, 2018  
3 (“Because of the tremendous dangers at the Border, including large scale criminal and drug  
4 inflow, the United States Military will build the Wall!”),<sup>21</sup> and December 31, 2018 (“I  
5 campaigned on Border Security, which you cannot have without a strong and powerful Wall. Our  
6 Southern Border has long been an ‘Open Wound,’ where drugs, criminals (including human  
7 traffickers) and illegals would pour into our Country. Dems should get back here an [sic] fix  
8 now!”).<sup>22</sup>

9 131. The salient facts regarding the ostensible “crisis” that President Trump repeatedly  
10 invoked in these numerous statements have not significantly changed since his inauguration as  
11 President in January 2017.

12 132. President Trump acknowledged this when he stated that the “emergency” at the  
13 border “began a long time [ago],” citing 2014 as the beginning of the ostensible “crisis at the  
14 border.”<sup>23</sup>

15 133. There is no evidence of change to the historic pattern of unauthorized immigrants  
16 committing crimes at substantially lower rates than native-born Americans.<sup>24</sup>

17 134. The evidence from the federal government’s own data also shows that the vast  
18 majority of the drugs smuggled into the country that the President has singled out as dangerous  
19 (methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl)<sup>25</sup> continue to come through, not between, ports  
20 of entry.<sup>26</sup>

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 <sup>20</sup> *Id.* (June 21, 2018, 5:12 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/y3zaqk7d>.

23 <sup>21</sup> *Id.* (Dec. 19, 2018, 5:43 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/y95cnd8r>.

24 <sup>22</sup> *Id.* (Dec. 31, 2018, 5:29 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/y6stmopr>.

25 <sup>23</sup> White House, *Remarks by President Trump Before Marine One Departure* (Jan. 10,  
26 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/yycew5dk>.

27 <sup>24</sup> See, e.g., Alex Nowrateh, *The Murder of Mollie Tibbetts and Illegal Immigrant Crime: The Facts*, Cato Institute (Aug. 22, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y5boc9me> (showing that “[t]he  
28 illegal immigrant conviction rate for homicide was 44 percent below that of native-born  
Americans in 2016 in Texas”) (emphasis in original).

<sup>25</sup> White House, *President Donald J. Trump’s Address to the Nation on the Crisis at the  
Border* (Jan. 8, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y5uloxyg>.

<sup>26</sup> CBP, *CBP Enforcement Statistics FY2018*, <https://tinyurl.com/y9c4c6ft> (showing that  
through August 2018, federal agents seized 88 percent of cocaine, 90 percent of heroin, 87

1           135. There continues to be a lack of credible evidence that terrorists are using the  
2 southern border as a means of entering the United States, as a State Department report produced  
3 under the Trump Administration makes clear.<sup>27</sup>

4           136. In his own public statements, President Trump has made clear that his emergency  
5 declaration was triggered by his inability to secure funding for the border wall from Congress  
6 rather than an actual national emergency at the border.

7           137. When asked by the media about his plans to declare a national emergency relating  
8 to the border wall, President Trump stated his preference for “do[ing] the deal through Congress,”  
9 but that if the deal did not “work out” he would “almost . . . definitely” declare a national  
10 emergency.<sup>28</sup> While he reiterated his claims that the volume of drugs, criminals, and gangs  
11 coming through the border between ports of entry constituted a “crisis,” President Trump  
12 repeatedly cited the ongoing impasse with Congress as his rationale for the emergency  
13 declaration.<sup>29</sup>

14           138. Around the same time, when asked by the media what his threshold was for  
15 declaring a national emergency, President Trump responded, “My threshold will be if I can’t  
16 make a deal with people that are unreasonable.”<sup>30</sup>

17           139. On February 1, 2019, President Trump made clear in an interview that he was  
18 planning to wait until February 15, the deadline for a congressional conference committee to avert  
19 another government shutdown, before issuing an emergency declaration.<sup>31</sup> President Trump  
20 claimed he was already building the border wall, and strongly implied that he needed neither

21 \_\_\_\_\_  
22 percent of methamphetamine, and 80 percent of fentanyl at ports of entry in this fiscal year).

23 <sup>27</sup> U.S. Dep’t of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism, *Country Reports on Terrorism 2017*  
205 (Sept. 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y93n5fes>.

24 <sup>28</sup> *Trump Remarks before Marine One Departure*, *supra* note 23.

25 <sup>29</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>30</sup> George Sargent, *Trump: I Have the ‘Absolute Right’ to Declare a National Emergency*  
*if Democrats Defy Me*, Wash. Post (Jan 9, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y4vmtezb>.

27 <sup>31</sup> New York Times, *Excerpt from Trump’s Interview with the New York Times* (Feb. 1,  
2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y9gsosk4>; see also CBS, *Transcript: President Trump on “Face the*  
*Nation”* (Feb. 3, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y8l38g72> (President Trump describing emergency  
28 declaration as an “alternative” to the process that Congress was engaged in to avert another  
shutdown, which was to end on February 15).



1 additional funding nor an emergency declaration to build it.<sup>32</sup>

2 140. During a press conference that same day, when asked whether he would consider  
3 other options besides the emergency declaration, President Trump stated that “we will be looking  
4 at a national emergency, because I don’t think anything is going to happen [in Congress]. I think  
5 the Democrats don’t want border security.”<sup>33</sup> President Trump also repeated his view that the  
6 wall was already being built “with funds that are on hand . . . we’re building a lot of wall right  
7 now, as we speak . . . [a]nd we’re getting ready to hand out some very big contracts with money  
8 that we have on hand and money that comes in.”<sup>34</sup>

9 **II. CONGRESS HAS APPROPRIATED LIMITED FUNDING TOWARD A BORDER BARRIER**  
10 **AND NO FUNDING TOWARD PRESIDENT TRUMP’S PROPOSED BORDER WALL**

11 141. Congress has exercised its Article I powers by appropriating funds for the  
12 construction of border barriers and related infrastructure when Congress deemed it appropriate.  
13 During the period of 2005 through 2011, Congress appropriated funding for the construction of  
14 hundreds of miles of border barriers.<sup>35</sup> Currently, there is a total of 705 miles of primary,  
15 secondary, or tertiary fencing along 654 miles of the southwest border.<sup>36</sup>

16 142. In the 115th Congress, between 2017 and 2018, Congress considered, but  
17 repeatedly declined to adopt, legislation appropriating funding for President Trump’s proposed

18  
19 <sup>32</sup> *New York Times Interview, supra* note 31 (President Trump stating: “I’m building the  
20 wall right now. . . . it’s been funded . . . . We’ll be up to, by the end of this year, 115 miles. . . .  
21 At least. . . . And that doesn’t include large amounts of wall that we’ll be starting before the end  
22 of the year. So we’ll be up to hundreds of miles of wall between new wall and renovation wall in  
a fairly short period of time. . . . And I’ll continue to build the wall, and we’ll get the wall  
finished. Now whether or not I declare a national emergency, that you’ll see”); *see also* Donald J.  
Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Jan. 31, 2019, 9:43 AM), <https://tinyurl.com/y56tevok>  
 (“Wall is being built!”).

23 <sup>33</sup> White House, *Remarks by President Trump in Meeting on Human Trafficking on the*  
*Southern Border* (Feb. 1, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y5ghp3eh>.

24 <sup>34</sup> *Id.*

25 <sup>35</sup> Gov’t Accountability Office, *Additional Actions Needed to Better Assess Fencing’s*  
*Contributions to Operations and Provide Guidance for Identifying Capability Gaps*, GAO-17-  
26 331 (Feb. 16, 2017), at 7-10, <https://tinyurl.com/yaqbny6e>; Gov’t Accountability Office, *Secure*  
*Border Initiative Fence Construction Costs*, GAO-09-244R (Jan. 29, 2009), at 4-11,  
<https://tinyurl.com/y2kgef5>.

27 <sup>36</sup> U.S. Border Patrol, *Mileage of Pedestrian and Vehicle Fencing by State* (Aug. 2, 2017),  
<https://tinyurl.com/y6f27h4e>.

1 border wall.<sup>37</sup>

2 143. Near the end of the 115th Congress, Congress worked on a funding bill before the  
3 December 22, 2018 deadline when federal funding ran out for a number of federal departments.  
4 On December 11, 2018, President Trump held a televised meeting with the Democratic leaders of  
5 Congress, then-House Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi and Senate Minority Leader Chuck  
6 Schumer, to discuss the funding deadline. At that meeting, President Trump said he wanted \$5  
7 billion to build a portion of the border wall. President Trump said at that meeting, “If we don’t  
8 get what we want one way or the other, whether it’s through you, through a military, through  
9 anything you want to call, I will shut down the government, absolutely.” President Trump  
10 reiterated that he would be “proud to shut down the government for border security.” At the  
11 meeting, Leaders Schumer and Pelosi said they disagreed with the President on providing funding  
12 for the border wall.<sup>38</sup>

13 144. On December 19, 2018, the Senate passed by voice vote a bill to fund the  
14 government through February 8, 2019 that did not include any funding for a border wall.  
15 Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2018, H.R. 695, 115th Cong. (2018).

16 145. After the Senate passed the temporary funding bill, on December 20, 2018,  
17 President Trump announced that “I’ve made my position very clear. Any measure that funds the  
18

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19 <sup>37</sup> See, e.g., The WALL Act of 2018, S. 3713, 115th Cong. (2018) (proposed \$25 billion  
20 appropriation for border wall; no committee action); 50 Votes for the Wall Act, H.R. 7073, 115th  
21 Cong. (2018) (proposed \$25 billion appropriation for funding for border wall; no committee  
22 action); Build the Wall, Enforce the Law Act of 2018, H.R. 7059, 115th Cong. (2018) (proposed  
23 \$16.6 billion appropriation for border wall; no committee action); Fund and Complete the Border  
24 Wall Act, H.R. 6657, 115th Cong. (2018) (proposed authorization of funding for border wall; no  
25 committee action); American Border Act, H.R. 6415, 115th Cong. (2018) (proposed \$16.6 billion  
26 appropriation for border wall; no committee action); Border Security and Immigration Reform  
27 Act of 2018, H.R. 6136, 115th Cong. (2018) (proposed \$16.6 billion appropriation for border  
28 wall; voted down by House 301 to 121); Securing America’s Future Act of 2018, H.R. 4760,  
115th Cong. (2018) (proposed construction of physical barrier, including border wall; voted down  
by House 231-193); Border Security and Deferred Action Recipient Relief Act, S. 2199, 115th  
Cong. (2017) (proposal to make available \$38.2 million for planning for border wall construction;  
no action in Senate); Make America Secure Appropriations Act, H.R. 3219, 115th Cong. (2017)  
(proposed \$38.2 million appropriation for border wall; passed House of Representatives, but no  
action by Senate).

<sup>38</sup> C-SPAN, *President Trump Meeting with Democratic Leaders* (Dec. 11, 2018),  
<https://tinyurl.com/ycalrz3x>.

1 government must include border security,” which he clarified must include funding for a wall.<sup>39</sup>

2 146. On December 20, 2018, the House of Representatives approved a short-term  
3 funding bill appropriating \$5.7 billion for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection – Procurement,  
4 Construction, and Improvements.” Department of Defense Appropriations Act of 2018, H.R.  
5 695, 115th Cong. (2018). The Senate never passed the House-approved version of the legislation.

6 147. With no agreement between Congress and the President on funding, on December  
7 22, 2018, the federal government partially shut down.

8 148. On January 3, 2019, Nancy Pelosi became Speaker of the House. The day before,  
9 Speaker Pelosi reiterated in a televised interview that the House would be providing “[n]othing  
10 for the wall.”<sup>40</sup> On January 3, the House of Representatives approved a short-term funding bill  
11 without any funding for a border wall. Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2019, H.R. 21, 116th  
12 Cong. (2019). The Senate never passed the House approved version of the legislation.

13 149. On January 19, 2019, President Trump addressed the nation regarding the partial  
14 government shutdown and laid out his immigration proposal. In his remarks, he repeated his  
15 unsupported claims of an immigration enforcement crisis at the border in connection with his  
16 continued proposal for \$5.7 billion in funding for a wall, stating that “[a]s a candidate for  
17 president, I promised I would fix this crisis, and I intend to keep that promise one way or the  
18 other.”<sup>41</sup>

19 150. When he announced the congressional agreement that ended the government  
20 shutdown on January 25, 2019, President Trump stated: “If we don’t get a fair deal from  
21 Congress, the government will either shut down on February 15th, again, or I will use the powers  
22 afforded to me under the laws and the Constitution of the United States to address this  
23 emergency.”<sup>42</sup>

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>39</sup> CNN, *Trump: “I’ve Made My Position Very Clear” on Spending Bill* (Dec. 20, 2018),  
<https://tinyurl.com/yy9cvzdd>.

26 <sup>40</sup> Tal Axelrod, *Pelosi on Negotiations with Trump: “Nothing for the Wall”*, The Hill,  
(Jan. 2, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y77o89hp>.

27 <sup>41</sup> White House, *Remarks by President Trump on the Humanitarian Crisis on our  
Southern Border and the Shutdown* (Jan. 19, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y7gdj6s8>.

28 <sup>42</sup> White House, *Remarks by President Trump on the Government Shutdown* (Jan. 25,  
2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y4mplplb>.

1           151. After weeks of negotiation, on February 14, 2019, Congress passed the  
2 Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2019 (H.J. Res. 31) (the “2019 Appropriations Act”). The  
3 2019 Appropriations Act provides \$1.375 billion for “construction of primary pedestrian fencing,  
4 including levee pedestrian fencing, in the Rio Grande Valley Sector” of the border. H.J. Res. 31  
5 § 230(a)(1). That is the only funding in the 2019 Appropriations Act that Congress designated for  
6 the construction of a barrier.

7           152. The 2019 Appropriations Act also imposes limitations on how the fencing may be  
8 constructed. The amount designated for fencing in the Rio Grande Valley Sector “shall only be  
9 available for operationally effective designs deployed as of the date of the Consolidated  
10 Appropriations Act, 2017 (Public Law 115-31), such as currently deployed steel bollard designs,  
11 that prioritize agent safety.” *Id.* § 230(b). The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2017 was  
12 enacted on May 5, 2017. *See* Pub. L. No. 115-31. Thus, the 2019 Appropriations Act authorized  
13 fencing only using designs already “deployed” nearly two years ago. The Consolidated  
14 Appropriations Act of 2017 likewise does not authorize the construction of a concrete or steel  
15 wall. *Id.*

16           153. Congress made clear its intent that it was not appropriating any funding toward the  
17 construction of a wall. Senator Patrick Leahy, Vice Chairman of the Senate Appropriations  
18 Committee, who was actively involved in negotiations on the 2019 Consolidated Appropriations  
19 Act, stated, “The agreement does not fund President Trump’s wasteful wall.” 165 Cong. Rec.  
20 S1362 (daily ed. Feb 14, 2019). Senator Schumer, the Senate Minority Leader, noted that, “The  
21 agreement will provide smart border security, increasing support for technologies at our ports of  
22 entry. It will not fund the President’s expensive, ineffective wall.” 165 Cong. Rec. S1363 (daily  
23 ed. Feb. 14, 2019). The congressional record in the House of Representatives is no different.  
24 *See, e.g.*, 165 Cong. Rec. H2019 (daily ed. Feb. 14, 2019) (statement of Rep. Price) (“This  
25 agreement denies the President billions of dollars for an unnecessary wall.”); 165 Cong. Rec.  
26 H2020 (daily ed. Feb. 14, 2019) (statement of Rep. Aguilar) (“What this bill will not do is . . .  
27 fund the President’s wall from sea to shining sea, a wall that he said Mexico would pay for.”).

28           154. On February 15, 2019, President Trump signed the 2019 Consolidated

1 Appropriations Act into law.

### 2 **III. PRESIDENT TRUMP’S EXECUTIVE ACTION AND EMERGENCY DECLARATION**

3 155. That same day, the Trump Administration announced that the President was taking  
4 Executive Action to redirect funding beyond what was appropriated by Congress toward  
5 construction of a border wall. The Administration outlined specific plans for the diversion of an  
6 additional \$6.7 billion “that will be available to build the border wall once a national emergency  
7 is declared and additional funds have been reprogramed.”<sup>43</sup> The Administration identified the  
8 following funding for diversion:

- 9 • \$601 million from the Treasury Forfeiture Fund;
- 10 • Up to \$2.5 billion under the Department of Defense funds transferred for Support for  
11 Counterdrug Activities (10 U.S.C. § 284); and
- 12 • Up to \$3.6 billion reallocated from Department of Defense military construction projects  
13 under the President’s declaration of a national emergency (10 U.S.C. § 2808).<sup>44</sup>

14 156. In conjunction with that announcement, the President also declared a national  
15 emergency under the National Emergencies Act claiming that there is a “border security and  
16 humanitarian crisis that threatens core national security interests and constitutes a national  
17 emergency.” The Emergency Declaration claimed that the border is an entry point for “criminals,  
18 gang members, and illicit narcotics.”<sup>45</sup> The Emergency Declaration continues: “The problem of  
19 large-scale unlawful migration through the southern border is long-standing, and despite the  
20 executive branch’s exercise of existing statutory authorities, the situation has worsened in certain  
21 respects in recent years. In particular, recent years have seen sharp increases in the number of  
22 family units entering and seeking entry to the United States and an inability to provide detention  
23 space for many of these aliens while their removal proceedings are pending.”<sup>46</sup> The Emergency  
24 Declaration concludes that the difficulty in removing these family units justifies the declaration,

25 <sup>43</sup> White House, *President Donald J. Trump’s Border Security Victory* (Feb. 15, 2019),  
26 <https://tinyurl.com/y3empmay>.

26 <sup>44</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>45</sup> President Donald J. Trump, *Proclamation Declaring a National Emergency Concerning*  
28 *the Southern Border of the United States* (Feb. 15, 2019).

28 <sup>46</sup> *Id.*

1 but it does not make any connection to how the entry of these family units into the United States  
2 contributes to the flow of “criminals, gang members, and illicit narcotics” into the country.<sup>47</sup>

3 157. The President invoked the National Emergencies Act and declared that the  
4 “emergency requires use of the Armed Forces” and “that the construction authority provided in  
5 section 2808 of title 10, United States Code, is invoked and made available, according to its  
6 terms, to the Secretary of Defense, and at the discretion of the Secretary of Defense, to the  
7 Secretaries of the military departments.”

8 158. The Emergency Declaration directs the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of  
9 relevant military departments to “order as many units or members of the Ready Reserve to active  
10 duty as the Secretary concerned, in the Secretary’s discretion, determines to be appropriate to  
11 assist and support the activities of the Secretary of Homeland Security at the southern border.”<sup>48</sup>

12 159. The Emergency Declaration further directs the Secretaries of Defense, Interior,  
13 and Homeland Security to “take all appropriate actions, consistent with applicable law, to use or  
14 support the use of the authorities herein invoked.”<sup>49</sup>

15 160. At a press conference announcing the Executive Actions, President Trump  
16 acknowledged that Congress provided more than enough funding for homeland security, and that  
17 the Administration has “so much money, we don’t know what to do with it.” In explaining his  
18 rationale for the Executive Actions, the President candidly admitted that the emergency  
19 declaration reflected his personal preference to construct the wall more quickly, rather than an  
20 actual urgent need for it to be built immediately: “I could do the wall over a longer period of time.  
21 I didn’t need to do this. But I’d rather do it much faster.”<sup>50</sup>

## 22 **IV. LEGAL BACKGROUND**

### 23 **A. The National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1651)**

24 161. The National Emergencies Act (“NEA”), Pub. L. 94-412, 90 Stat. 1255, codified at  
25 50 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1651, was enacted by Congress in 1976 to rein in, rather than expand, the

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26 <sup>47</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>48</sup> *Id.* § 1.

<sup>49</sup> *Id.* § 2.

28 <sup>50</sup> White House, *Remarks by President Trump on the National Security and Humanitarian  
Crisis on our Southern Border* (Feb. 15, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y3jenqeu>.

1 power of the president. The NEA was designed to “insure” that the president’s “extraordinary”  
2 emergency powers would “be utilized only when emergencies actually exist.” S. Rep. No. 94-  
3 1168, at 2 (1976). Senator Frank Church, who was instrumental in the development of the NEA,  
4 testified before the Senate Committee of Government Operations “that the President should not  
5 be allowed to invoke emergency authorities or in any way utilize the provisions of this Act for  
6 frivolous or partisan matters, nor for that matter in cases where important but not ‘essential’  
7 problems are at stake.” *Hearing on H.R. 3884 Before the S. Comm. of Governmental Operations*,  
8 94th Cong. 7 (1976) (statement of Sen. Frank Church). Senator Church continued that “[t]he  
9 Committee intentionally chose language which would make clear that the authority of the Act  
10 was to be reserved for matters that are ‘essential’ to the protection of the Constitution and the  
11 people.” *Id.*

12 162. The NEA allows the president to utilize emergency powers, as authorized by  
13 Congress in other federal statutes, when there is a national emergency, and one has been declared.  
14 50 U.S.C. § 1621.

15 163. Under the NEA, the president must specify the statutory emergency authorities he  
16 intends to invoke upon issuing a national emergency. He must also publish the proclamation of a  
17 national emergency in the Federal Register and transmit it to Congress. 50 U.S.C. § 1631.

18 **B. Section 2808’s Emergency Military Construction Authority (10 U.S.C.**  
19 **§ 2808)**

20 164. The President seeks to reallocate “[u]p to \$3.6 billion . . . from Department of  
21 Defense military construction projects under the President’s declaration of a national  
22 emergency.”<sup>51</sup>

23 165. Section 2808 states that when the president declares a national emergency “that  
24 requires use of the armed forces,” the Secretary of Defense may “undertake military construction  
25 projects . . . not otherwise authorized by law that are necessary to support such use of the armed  
26 forces.” 10 U.S.C. § 2808(a).

27 \_\_\_\_\_  
28 <sup>51</sup> *President Donald J. Trump’s Border Security Victory*, *supra* note 43 (citing 10 U.S.C. §  
2808).

1           166. Section 2808 limits the funds available for emergency military construction to “the  
2 total amount of funds that have been appropriated for military construction . . . that have not been  
3 obligated.” 10 U.S.C. § 2808(a).

4           167. “Military construction” under Section 2808 includes “any construction,  
5 development, conversion, or extension of any kind carried out with respect to a military  
6 installation,” and “military installation” includes a “base, camp, post, station, yard, center, or  
7 other activity under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department.” 10 U.S.C. § 2801.

8           **C. Section 284’s Authority to Support Counter-Drug Activities (10 U.S.C.  
9 § 284)**

10           168. The President seeks to use “[u]p to \$2.5 billion under the Department of Defense  
11 funds transferred for Support for Counterdrug Activities.”<sup>52</sup>

12           169. Section 284 authorizes the Secretary of Defense to assist civilian law enforcement  
13 with drug enforcement activities. 10 U.S.C. § 284. It states that the Secretary of Defense “may  
14 provide support for the counterdrug activities or activities to counter transnational organized  
15 crime” of any law enforcement agency. Such support may include “[c]onstruction of roads and  
16 fences and installation of lighting to block drug smuggling corridors across international  
17 boundaries of the United States.” *Id.*

18           170. Use of Section 284 is not dependent on the president declaring a national  
19 emergency.

20           171. Congress has appropriated to the DOD funding for interdiction and counter-drug  
21 activities. For instance, in FY 2019, Congress appropriated \$217,178,000 for National Guard  
22 counter-drug programs subject to specific limitations on how the Administration may expend  
23 these funds.<sup>53</sup> That funding is intended to support counterdrug operations at all levels of  
24 government, including on a state-wide basis.<sup>54</sup> According to a U.S. Government Accountability

25           <sup>52</sup> *Id.* (citing 10 U.S.C. § 284).

26           <sup>53</sup> Department of Defense and Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
Appropriations Act, 2019 and Continuing Appropriations Act, 2019, Pub. L. No. 115-245 (Sept.  
28, 2018).

27           <sup>54</sup> National Guard, National Guard Counterdrug Program, <https://tinyurl.com/yx9whzd8>  
28 (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).



1 Office analysis, National Guard Counterdrug Program funding was planned for all fifty states  
2 plus Washington, D.C., Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and Guam.<sup>55</sup>

3 **D. Authority to Transfer Funds from Treasury Asset Forfeiture Fund (31**  
4 **U.S.C. § 9705)**

5 172. The President seeks to use “about \$601 million” from the Department of the  
6 Treasury’s Asset Forfeiture Fund.<sup>56</sup>

7 173. Section 9705(g)(4)(B) provides that after reserves and required transfers, the  
8 Treasury Forfeiture Fund’s “unobligated balances . . . shall be available to the Secretary . . . for  
9 obligation or expenditure in connection with the law enforcement activities of any Federal  
10 agency. . . .”

11 **E. National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”)**

12 174. NEPA, 42 U.S.C. section 4321 et seq., is the “basic national charter for protection  
13 of the environment.” 40 C.F.R. § 1500.1 (a). NEPA contains several action-forcing procedures,  
14 most significantly the mandate to prepare an environmental impact statement (“EIS”) on major  
15 federal actions “significantly affecting the quality of the human environment.” *Robertson v.*  
16 *Methow Valley Citizen Council*, 490 U.S. 332, 348 (1989) (citing 42 U.S.C. § 4332 (2)(C)).

17 175. NEPA requires federal agencies to consider several factors relating to the  
18 “intensity” of the project, including: the “[u]nique characteristics of the geographic area such as  
19 proximity to . . . ecologically critical areas” (40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(3)); “[t]he degree to which the  
20 action may adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been  
21 determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973” (40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(9));  
22 and “[w]hether the action threatens a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements  
23 imposed for the protection of the environment.” 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(10).

24 176. “NEPA requires that the evaluation of a project’s environmental consequences  
25 take place at an early stage in the project’s planning process.” *State of California v. Block*, 690  
26 F.2d 753, 761 (9th Cir. 1982) (citation omitted). A proposal subject to NEPA exists where an

27 <sup>55</sup> Gov’t Accountability Office, *Drug Control, DOD Should Improve Its Oversight of the*  
28 *National Guard Counterdrug Program*, GAO-19-27 (Jan. 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y4e6ocra>.

<sup>56</sup> *Border Security Victory*, *supra* note 43.

1 agency has a goal and is actively preparing to make a decision on the alternatives in  
2 accomplishing that goal, regardless of whether the agency declares that such a proposal exists:  
3 “An agency shall commence preparation of an environmental impact statement as close as  
4 possible to the time the agency is developing or is presented with a proposal.” 40 C.F.R. §  
5 1502.5. A “[p]roposal exists at that stage in the development of an action when an agency subject  
6 to the Act has a goal and is actively preparing to make a decision on one or more alternative  
7 means of accomplishing that goal and the effects can be meaningfully evaluated.” 40 C.F.R. §  
8 1508.23.

9 **V. THERE IS NO IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT “CRISIS” OR “INVASION” AT THE**  
10 **SOUTHERN BORDER TO SUPPORT THE DECLARATION OF EMERGENCY**

11 **A. There Is No Evidence That a Massive Influx of Migrants Is Overwhelming**  
12 **Government Resources at the Southern Border**

13 177. President Trump’s continued claim that an unprecedented flood of migrants is  
14 causing an immigration enforcement crisis amounting to a “national emergency” is not supported  
15 by the facts.

16 178. As CBP statistics show, apprehensions at the border in recent months are within  
17 the historic range, and indeed lower than they have been in some months in prior years (especially  
18 2014).<sup>57</sup>

19 179. From a larger perspective, apprehensions at the southwest border are actually near  
20 historic lows, with fewer than 400,000 apprehensions in FY2018 compared to over 1.6 million in  
21 FY2000.<sup>58</sup>

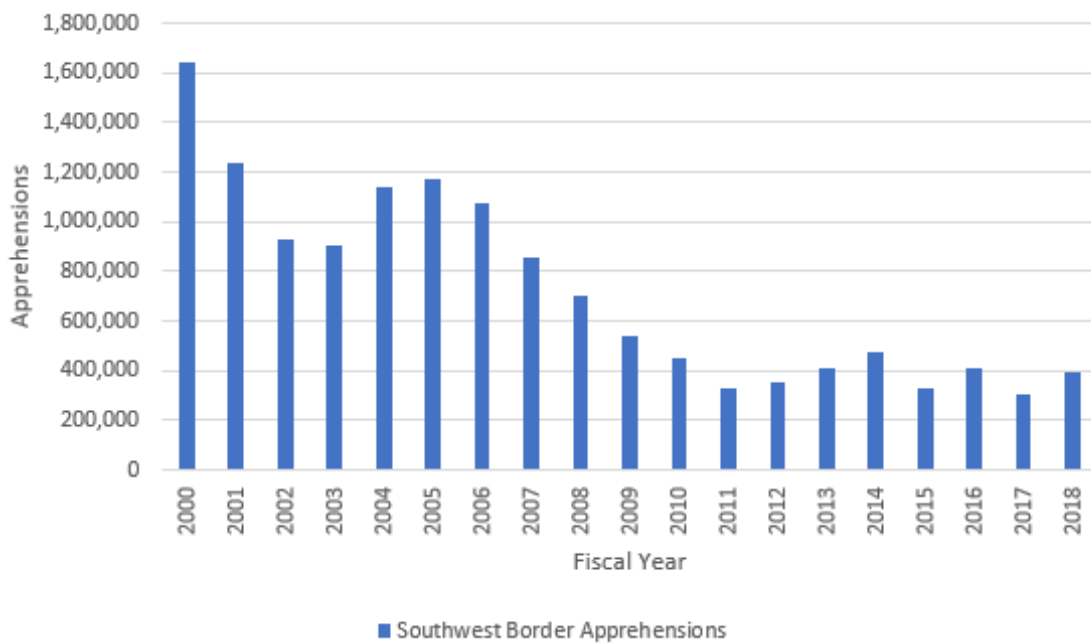
22 180. In FY2017, CBP made the fewest apprehensions since FY2000, and the number of  
23 apprehensions in FY2018 was the fifth lowest since FY2000.<sup>59</sup>

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24 <sup>57</sup> CBP, *Southwest Border Migration FY2019*, <https://tinyurl.com/CBP-app-2019> (last  
25 visited Feb. 17, 2019).

26 <sup>58</sup> CBP, *Nationwide Illegal Alien Apprehensions Fiscal Years 1925-2017*,  
27 <https://tinyurl.com/y2kysbr8> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019) (also showing over 1 million  
28 apprehensions in each of fiscal years 1954, 1983-87, 1990-99, 2001, 2004-06, as well as over  
800,000 apprehensions in each of fiscal years 1953, 1977-79, 1981-82, 1988-89, 2002, 2003, and  
2007).

<sup>59</sup> *Id.* (also the source of data for the graph included herein).



181. During this same time span, there were dramatic increases in the number of border patrol agents utilized to patrol the southwest border between the ports of entry. From 2000 to 2017, CBP increased its border patrol agent staffing nationwide by 111%, from 9,212 to 19,437 agents. CBP increased the number of border patrol agents assigned to the southwest border sectors by nearly 94%, from 8,580 to 16,605 agents during the 2000-2017 time period.<sup>60</sup>

182. CBP personnel have significantly increased over the past two decades, while illegal border crossings have dropped, causing the average annual number of apprehensions made by each CBP agent to drop by almost 91%, from 192 in FY2000 to only 18 in FY2017.<sup>61</sup>

183. In September 2017, DHS published a report in which it concluded that “the southwest land border is more difficult to illegally cross today than ever before.”<sup>62</sup>

184. President Trump and other Administration officials have pointed to a series of “caravans” of asylum seekers from Central America as posing a national security threat to the

<sup>60</sup> CBP, *Border Patrol Agent Nationwide Staffing by Fiscal Year*, <https://tinyurl.com/yyazdqm7> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).

<sup>61</sup> *Id.*; CBP, *Total Illegal Alien Apprehensions by Fiscal Year*, <https://tinyurl.com/y73mzshs> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).

<sup>62</sup> DHS, Off. of Immigr. Stats., *Efforts by DHS to Estimate Southwest Border Security between Ports of Entry* (Sept. 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/y9gbn5js>.

1 United States and to justify the border wall.<sup>63</sup>

2 185. But these caravans have not materially changed the situation at the border—and  
3 will not materially change it—because numerically they represent a small fraction of CBP’s  
4 monthly southwest border apprehensions.

5 186. CBP reported 58,207 apprehensions at the southwest border in January 2019—  
6 47,893 between ports of entry and 10,314 at ports of entry—an average of almost 1,900 per day.<sup>64</sup>

7 187. A recent migrant caravan that departed Honduras is estimated to contain around  
8 2,000 members.<sup>65</sup>

9 188. Thus, even if the entire caravan entered at once, this entry would constitute  
10 approximately one day’s average apprehensions and less than 4% of monthly apprehensions.

11 189. CBP has dealt with far larger changes in migrant flows in the past; for example,  
12 apprehensions increased by 13,596 from February to March 2018.<sup>66</sup>

13 190. In general, the population of undocumented immigrants from Mexico has dropped  
14

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15 <sup>63</sup> See, e.g., Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Nov. 18, 2018, 10:42 AM),  
16 <https://tinyurl.com/invasion-tweet> (“the U.S. is ill-prepared for this invasion, and will not stand  
17 for it”); *id.*, Twitter (Jan. 15, 2019, 4:37 AM) <https://tinyurl.com/yyjrbyfn> (“A big new Caravan is  
18 heading up to our Southern Border from Honduras. Tell Nancy and Chuck that a drone flying  
19 around will not stop them. Only a Wall will work. Only a Wall, or Steel Barrier, will keep our  
20 Country safe!”); *id.*, Twitter (Jan. 18, 2019, 6:13 AM) <https://tinyurl.com/yyjrbyfn> (“Another big  
21 Caravan heading our way. Very hard to stop without a Wall!”); *id.*, Twitter (Feb. 3, 2019)  
22 <https://tinyurl.com/yywmw9yx> (“With Caravans marching through Mexico and toward our  
23 Country, Republicans must be prepared to do whatever is necessary for STRONG Border  
24 Security”); 2019 State of the Union Address, *supra* (“As we speak, large, organized caravans are  
25 on the march to the United States. We have just heard that Mexican cities, in order to remove the  
26 illegal immigrants from their communities, are getting trucks and buses to bring them up to our  
27 country in areas where there is little border protection. I have ordered another 3,750 troops to our  
28 southern border to prepare for this tremendous onslaught”); DHS, *Secretary Nielsen Statement on  
New Migrant “Caravan”* (Feb. 5, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y6gt7wjk> (calling caravan “lawless”  
and stating DHS intention to “take all steps to ensure the safety and security of law enforcement  
personnel on the frontlines . . . [and] do everything in its power—with the assistance of federal  
and state partners—to hold smugglers and traffickers accountable, enforce our laws, and keep  
American communities safe”).

<sup>64</sup> See *Southwest Border Migration*, *supra* note 57.

<sup>65</sup> Tom Phillips, *Latest migrant caravan marches on as Trump again demands border wall*, *The Guardian* (Jan. 17, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/yas7msld>.

<sup>66</sup> *Southwest Border Migration*, *supra* note 57.

1 significantly in recent years, falling by 1.3 million between 2010 and 2017. In 2016 alone, this  
2 decrease was 400,000.<sup>67</sup>

3 191. The Director of National Intelligence’s most recent “Worldwide Threat  
4 Assessment” (“DNI Report”) was produced on January 29, 2019. That report discusses several  
5 topics germane to the Emergency Declaration, including migration, terrorism, and transnational  
6 crime (including human and drug trafficking).<sup>68</sup>

7 192. While the DNI Report notes that “high crime rates and weak job markets will spur  
8 additional US-bound migrants from the Northern Triangle—El Salvador, Guatemala, and  
9 Honduras,” and that “[m]any migrants apparently perceive that traveling in caravans on the  
10 journey north affords a certain level of security,” the report contains no mention of a security  
11 threat from the caravans or at the southwest border generally.<sup>69</sup> The report also discusses  
12 “transnational organized crime” as a driver of migration,<sup>70</sup> consistent with research by federal  
13 officials indicating that most migrants from the Northern Triangle are “fleeing violence at home”  
14 and seeking to claim asylum in the United States.<sup>71</sup>

15 193. At the January 29, 2019, hearing of the Senate Intelligence Committee where the  
16 report was presented, the heads of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, Federal  
17 Bureau of Investigation, and Central Intelligence Agency—all appointed by President Trump—  
18 testified about international threats to the United States. “None of the officials said there is a  
19 security crisis at the U.S.-Mexico border, where Trump has considered declaring a national  
20 emergency so that he can build a wall.”<sup>72</sup>

21  
22 <sup>67</sup> Robert Warren, *U.S. Undocumented Population Continued to Fall from 2016 to 2017,*  
23 *and Visa Overstays Significantly Exceeded Illegal Crossings for the Seventh Consecutive Year,*  
Ctr. for Migration Studies (Jan. 16, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y7wa849r>.

24 <sup>68</sup> Daniel R. Coats, *Worldwide Threat Assessment*, Off. of the Dir. of Nat’l Intelligence  
(Jan. 29, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y9r6kkhu>.

25 <sup>69</sup> *Id.* at 41.

26 <sup>70</sup> *Id.* at 19.

27 <sup>71</sup> Max Ehrenfreund, *The Huge Immigration Problem That Donald Trump’s Wall Won’t*  
28 *Solve*, Wash. Post (Dec. 18, 2015), <https://tinyurl.com/yxgw1x2q> (citing research by Federal  
Reserve Bank of Dallas economist).

<sup>72</sup> Shane Harris, *Testimony by Intelligence Chiefs on Global Threats Highlights*  
*Differences with President*, Wash. Post (Jan. 29, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y45voevk>.

1           **B.    There Is No Evidence that Terrorists Are Infiltrating the United States via**  
2           **the Southern Border**

3           194.    The Trump Administration’s assertions that terrorism concerns justify its actions  
4 here are without factual basis.

5           195.    President Trump and other members of his Administration, including DHS  
6 Secretary Nielsen, have repeatedly claimed that terrorists have attempted to infiltrate the United  
7 States via the southern border and that the border wall is needed to stop this from happening.<sup>73</sup>

8           196.    However, the federal government’s own reports, as well as credible third-party  
9 analysis, show that these claims are false.

10          197.    In fact, while over 2,500 individuals on the Federal Bureau of Investigation’s  
11 terrorist watchlist attempted to travel to the United States in FY2017, the vast majority—over  
12 2,100—attempted to do so by air.<sup>74</sup>

13          198.    More generally, a 2018 State Department report finds that there is “no credible  
14 evidence indicating that international terrorist groups have established bases in Mexico, worked  
15 with Mexican drug cartels, or sent operatives via Mexico into the United States.”<sup>75</sup>

16          199.    While noting that “[t]he U.S. southern border remains vulnerable to *potential*  
17 terrorist transit,” the report concluded that “terrorist groups likely seek other means of trying to  
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19               <sup>73</sup> See White House, *Remarks by Vice President Mike Pence at an America First Policies*  
20 *Tax Reform Event* (Feb. 17, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y54tmrzo> (claiming that “seven individuals  
21 a day who are either known or suspected terrorists” are apprehended at one Texas port of entry);  
22 Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Oct. 22, 2018, 5:37 AM),  
23 <https://tinyurl.com/mid-easterners-tweet> (asserting that “unknown Middle Easterners” are part of  
24 the Caravan, and that he has “alerted Border Patrol and Military that this is a National Emergency  
25 [sic.]”); see also Calvin Woodward, *AP FACT CHECK: Trump’s Mythical Terrorist Tide From*  
26 *Mexico*, ABC News (Jan. 7, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/yyhewhrl> (collecting other statements by  
27 Administration officials asserting that large numbers of individuals with terrorist ties are  
28 apprehended at the Southern Border).

25               <sup>74</sup> DHS and U.S. Dep’t of Justice, *Executive Order 13780: Protecting the Nation From*  
26 *Foreign Terrorist Entry Into the United States Initial Section 11 Report 9* (Jan. 2018),  
27 <https://tinyurl.com/yy6bg66j>. The report does not specify whether the 355 individuals who  
28 attempted to enter by land were doing so at the northern or southern border.

27               <sup>75</sup> U.S. Dep’t of State, Bureau of Counterterrorism, *Country Reports on Terrorism 2017*  
28 205 (Sept. 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y93n5fes>.

1 enter the United States.”<sup>76</sup>

2 200. A recent comprehensive study by the Cato Institute—using data going back to  
3 1975—found that “there have been zero people murdered or injured in terror attacks committed  
4 by illegal border crossers on U.S. soil.”<sup>77</sup>

5 201. In fact, almost every individual convicted of even planning a terrorist attack on the  
6 United States who entered the country illegally came over the Canadian border or jumped ship in  
7 American ports.<sup>78</sup>

8 202. Only three individuals convicted of a terrorist plot entered illegally through the  
9 Mexican border, and they did so as children in the 1980s, decades before the planned attack was  
10 foiled in 2007.<sup>79</sup>

11 203. Further, the Cato Institute noted that “[n]ot a single terrorist in any visa category  
12 came from Mexico or Central America during the 43-year period.”<sup>80</sup>

13 204. The DNI Report contains a three-page discussion of terrorism. That discussion  
14 does not mention any threat of terrorists infiltrating the United States through the Southwest  
15 Border.<sup>81</sup> Indeed, terrorism is not discussed at all in the Western Hemisphere section of the  
16 report.<sup>82</sup>

17 205. Thus, while combating terrorism is an important national priority, illegal crossings  
18 at our southern border do not materially contribute to that problem and provide no factual  
19 justification for declaring an emergency requiring the diversion of funds to build a wall.

### 20 **C. There Is No Evidence that a Border Wall Will Decrease Crime Rates**

21 206. Studies have consistently shown that the connection that President Trump attempts

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22 <sup>76</sup> *Id.*

23 <sup>77</sup> David Bier & Alex Nowrasteh, *45,000 “Special Interest Aliens” Caught Since 2007, But No U.S. Terrorist Attacks from Illegal Border Crossers*, Cato Inst. (Dec. 17, 2018),  
24 <https://tinyurl.com/yddqwes3>.

25 <sup>78</sup> *Id.*

26 <sup>79</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>80</sup> Alex Nowrasteh, *Does the Migrant Caravan Pose a Serious Terrorism Risk?*, Cato Inst.  
(Oct. 23, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/yap9uc9s>.

28 <sup>81</sup> *DNI Report*, *supra* note 68 at 10–13.

<sup>82</sup> *Id.* at 40–42.



1 to draw between unauthorized immigration and increased crime rates is false.

2 207. According to a 2018 Cato Institute study examining 2016 incarceration rates,  
3 unauthorized immigrants were 47% **less** likely to be incarcerated for crimes than native-born  
4 Americans.<sup>83</sup>

5 208. A 2018 Cato Institute report examining 2015 Texas crime statistics found that  
6 undocumented immigrants had a criminal conviction rate 50% **below** that for native-born  
7 Americans.<sup>84</sup>

8 209. A 2018 study published in *Criminology* examining national crime rates from 1990  
9 to 2014 found “that undocumented immigration **does not increase** violence” and in fact  
10 “[i]ncreases in the undocumented immigrant population within states are associated with  
11 significant **decreases** in the prevalence of violence.”<sup>85</sup>

12 210. A 2017 study in the *Journal of Ethnicity in Criminal Justice* examining  
13 immigration and crime rates nationally over a 40-year period found that in the 10 cities where the  
14 immigrant population increased the most, crime levels in 2016 **decreased** to lower levels of crime  
15 than in 1980.<sup>86</sup> “The most striking finding from our research is that for murder, robbery, burglary  
16 and larceny, **as immigration increased, crime decreased**, on average, in American metropolitan  
17 areas.”<sup>87</sup> Large cities with substantial immigrant populations have **lower** crime rates, on average,  
18 than those with minimal immigrant populations.<sup>88</sup>

19  
20  
21  
22 <sup>83</sup> Michelangelo Landgrave & Alex Nowrasteh, *Incarcerated Immigrants in 2016*, Cato  
Inst. Res. and Pol’y Br. No. 7 (Jun. 4, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y2jn4e3x>.

23 <sup>84</sup> Alex Nowrasteh, *Criminal Immigrants in Texas*, Cato Inst. Res. and Pol’y Br. No. 4  
(Feb. 26, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y62qjsa6>

24 <sup>85</sup> Michael T. Light & Ty Miller, *Does Undocumented Immigration Increase Violent  
Crime?* *Criminology* (Mar. 25, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/ycyzsf27>.

25 <sup>86</sup> Robert Adelman et al., *Urban crime rates and the changing face of immigration:  
Evidence across four decades*, *J. of Ethnicity in Crim. Justice*, Vol. 15 (2017),  
26 <https://tinyurl.com/y6czenh7>; see also Anna Flag, *The Myth of the Criminal Immigrant*, N.Y.  
Times (Mar. 30, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y9hcu6kp>.

27 <sup>87</sup> Charis Kubrin et al., *Immigrants Do Not Increase Crime, Research Shows Scientific  
American* (Feb. 7, 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/h8xauk2>.

28 <sup>88</sup> *Id.*



1           211. A 2010 study showed that native-born American men between ages 18 to 39 with  
2 no high school diploma had *triple the incarceration rate* of immigrant men from Mexico, El  
3 Salvador, and Guatemala with the same age and education profile.<sup>89</sup>

4           212. The Administration’s repeated claims that building a border barrier in El Paso,  
5 Texas reduced a previously high rate of violent crimes there are also false.<sup>90</sup>

6           213. In fact, when the new border barrier was built in 2009, crime in El Paso had been  
7 dramatically decreasing since the 1990s, just as the violent crime rate decreased substantially  
8 nationwide from the 1990s through the present.<sup>91</sup> “From 2006 to 2011—two years before the  
9 fence was built to two years after—the number of violent crimes recorded in El Paso increased by  
10 17 percent.”<sup>92</sup>

11           **D. There Is No Evidence that a Border Wall Will Impact the Smuggling of**  
12           **Dangerous Drugs into the United States**

13           214. For years, the vast majority of the drugs smuggled into the country that the  
14 President has singled out as dangerous (methamphetamine, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl)<sup>93</sup> have  
15 been smuggled through, not between, ports of entry.<sup>94</sup>

16 \_\_\_\_\_  
17 <sup>89</sup> Ewing, *The Criminalization of Immigration in the United States*, Am. Immigr. Council  
18 Rep. (Jul. 13, 2015), <https://tinyurl.com/jxcv9aq>.

19 <sup>90</sup> See, e.g., State of the Union address, *supra* (“The border city of El Paso, Texas, used to  
20 have extremely high rates of violent crime — one of the highest in the entire country, and  
21 considered one of our nation's most dangerous cities. Now, immediately upon its building, with a  
22 powerful barrier in place, El Paso is one of the safest cities in our country.”)

23 <sup>91</sup> Federal Bureau of Investigation, Uniform Crime Reports, Crime in the United States,  
24 Table 1 (showing violent crime rate reduction from 567.6 violent crimes per 100,000 inhabitants  
25 in 1998 to 382.9 per 100,000 inhabitants in 2017), <https://tinyurl.com/yyvc6636> (last visited Feb.  
26 17, 2019).

27 <sup>92</sup> Madlin Mekelburg, *State of the Union: Facts Show Trump Wrong to Say El Paso*  
28 *Dangerous City until Fence*, El Paso Times (Feb. 5, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y9ol96az> (citing  
crime data from El Paso County Sheriff’s Office and FBI Uniform Crime Reports).

<sup>93</sup> *Trump Address on Crisis at Border*, *supra* note 25; see also White House, *President*  
*Donald J. Trump Is Committed to Working with Congress to Solve Our Urgent Immigration*  
*Crisis* (Feb. 5, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/yyhzvrq9> (“Tens of thousands of Americans are killed  
by tons of deadly, illicit drugs trafficked into our country by criminal aliens, gangs, and cartels  
exploiting our porous border. The lethal drugs that flood across our border and into our  
communities include meth, heroin, cocaine, and fentanyl.”).

<sup>94</sup> CBP, *Enforcement Statistics FY2018*, <https://tinyurl.com/y9c4c6ft> (showing that  
through August 2018, out of all the drugs seized by CBP in that fiscal year, 88 percent of cocaine,  
90 percent of heroin, 87 percent of methamphetamine, and 80 percent of fentanyl were seized by  
Field Operations at ports of entry).

1           215. From 2012-2018, 86% of cocaine, 88% of heroin, and 84% of methamphetamine  
2 came through ports of entry.<sup>95</sup>

3           216. From 2017-2018, 83% of fentanyl came through legal border ports of entry.<sup>96</sup>

4           217. For instance, CBP officers recently made what is being touted (including by  
5 President Trump<sup>97</sup>) as the largest seizure of fentanyl in history. Some 254 pounds of the drug and  
6 395 pounds of methamphetamine were discovered hidden in a floor compartment of a truck  
7 loaded with cucumbers as the truck tried to enter through the port of entry at Nogales, Arizona.<sup>98</sup>

8           218. Overall, drug seizures outside legal points of entry have significantly decreased.  
9 In the period 2012-2017, total drug seizures outside ports of entry dropped 62%.<sup>99</sup>

10          219. The DNI Report discusses drug trafficking from Mexico; however, it contains no  
11 mention of smuggling between ports of entry.<sup>100</sup>

12          220. In fact, the DNI Report notes that as to fentanyl—one of the drugs that President  
13 Trump has invoked in support of the border wall<sup>101</sup>—“Chinese synthetic drug suppliers . . .  
14 probably ship the majority of US fentanyl, when adjusted for purity.”<sup>102</sup>

15           **E. There Is No Factual Basis to Support the Statutory Criteria for Diverting**  
16           **Funding**

17          221. Building a border wall does not “require[] use of the armed forces” under 10  
18 U.S.C. section 2808.

19          222. Construction of border fencing has been carried out by civilian contractors in  
20 recent years.

21          223. In fact, in 2007, the U.S. military informed DHS that “military personnel would no  
22

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23           <sup>95</sup> *Id.*

24           <sup>96</sup> *Id.*

24           <sup>97</sup> Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Twitter (Jan. 31, 2019, 4:14 PM),  
25 <https://tinyurl.com/y4c4zxo3>.

25           <sup>98</sup> Pete Williams, *Feds Make Largest Fentanyl Bust in U.S. History*, NBC News (Jan. 31,  
26 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y9zgnv7p>.

26           <sup>99</sup> *CBP Enforcement Statistics FY2018*, *supra* note 94.

27           <sup>100</sup> *DNI Report*, *supra* note 68.

27           <sup>101</sup> *Trump Address on Crisis at Border*, *supra* note 25.

28           <sup>102</sup> *DNI Report*, *supra* note 68 at 18.

1 longer be available to build fencing.”<sup>103</sup>

2 224. This, along with the desire to not take CBP agents away from their other duties,  
3 led CBP to decide to use “commercial labor for future infrastructure projects.”<sup>104</sup>

4 225. This decision has been reflected in recent projects related to the border wall,  
5 including contract awards in California<sup>105</sup> and Arizona<sup>106</sup> in Fall 2018.

6 226. The construction of a border wall also does not constitute a “military construction”  
7 project, as defined in 10 U.S.C. section 2801. Since at least 2001, 10 U.S.C. section 2808 has  
8 only been invoked to justify military construction directly linked to a military installation.<sup>107</sup>

9 227. In fact, with one exception, it has only been invoked in relation to construction at  
10 military installations outside the United States.<sup>108</sup>

11 228. That single instance related to securing domestic sites at which weapons of mass  
12 destruction were sited.<sup>109</sup>

13 229. Furthermore, the diversion of funding for the proposed border wall does not satisfy  
14 the requirements of 10 U.S.C. section 284, the Counterdrugs Activities statute because, for the  
15 reasons discussed *supra*, the proposed border wall will not assist in blocking “drug smuggling  
16 corridors.” 10 U.S.C. § 284(b)(7).

## 17 **F. Plaintiff States and their Residents Are Harmed by the Executive Actions**

### 18 **1. Harm caused by diversion of funding and other resources**

19 230. Plaintiff States and their residents are harmed by the Executive Actions and  
20 Defendants’ unlawful actions undertaken to construct the border wall. *See* Parties section *supra*.

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21 <sup>103</sup> Gov’t Accountability Office, *GAO-09-244R Secure Border Initiative Fence*  
22 *Construction Costs* 7 (Jan. 29, 2009), <https://tinyurl.com/y2kgefp5>.

23 <sup>104</sup> *Id.*

24 <sup>105</sup> CBP, *Border Wall Contract Awards in California* (Dec. 21, 2018),  
<https://tinyurl.com/y3px9ubj> (announcing \$287 million contract with SLSCO Ltd. to build border  
barriers).

25 <sup>106</sup> CBP, *Border Wall Contract Award in Arizona* (Nov. 15, 2018),  
<https://tinyurl.com/y2t5u6pw> (announcing \$172 million contract with Barnard Construction Co.  
26 to build border barriers).

27 <sup>107</sup> Michael J. Vassalotti & Brendan W. McGarry, *Military Construction Funding in the*  
*Event of a National Emergency*, Cong. Res. Serv. (Jan. 11, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y23t8xbc>.

28 <sup>108</sup> *Id.*

<sup>109</sup> *Id.*

1           231. California will be harmed by the diversion of funds it receives from the federal  
2 government for drug interdiction program funding, which will impact public safety and the  
3 welfare of its residents.

4           232. California has been allocated \$24 million in drug interdiction funds from the  
5 federal government. If California loses this funding, there will be negative public safety impacts  
6 arising from the impairment of the State’s criminal and narcotics operations.

7           233. Diversion of funds from the Treasury’s Forfeiture Fund will deprive California of  
8 access to millions of dollars of funds that would otherwise be available for law enforcement  
9 purposes, negatively impacting the public safety and welfare of California’s residents.

10          234. California also will be harmed by diversion of funding for military construction.

11          235. More funds are spent on defense in California than in any other state, with \$48.8  
12 billion in FY2017 alone.<sup>110</sup>

13          236. California also leads the nation in defense contract spending, with \$35.2 billion  
14 that same year.<sup>111</sup> In fact, Plaintiff States collectively account for \$129.8 billion in defense  
15 contract spending.

16          237. Three of the top ten contract spending locations are in California (San Diego with  
17 \$9.2 billion, Los Angeles with \$5.3 billion, and Santa Clara County with \$4.8 billion).<sup>112</sup>

18          238. This defense spending—including construction—in California generates  
19 significant economic activity, employment, and tax revenue.<sup>113</sup>

20          239. In FY2016, this spending generated \$86.9 billion of direct economic activity in  
21 California, \$17.4 billion of economic activity (created through the supply chain of direct  
22 activities), and \$52 billion of “induced” economic activity created because of additional money in  
23 the economy.<sup>114</sup>

24 \_\_\_\_\_  
25 <sup>110</sup> DOD, Off. of Econ. Adjustment, *Defense Spending by State Fiscal Year 2017*,  
<https://tinyurl.com/yxcqguzr>.

26 <sup>111</sup> *Id.*

27 <sup>112</sup> *Id.*

28 <sup>113</sup> Devin Lavelle, *California Statewide National Security Economic Impacts*, Cal. Res.  
Bureau (Aug. 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/yxqlw43b>.

<sup>114</sup> *Id.*

1           240. This economic activity, in turn, generates employment for Californians. In FY  
2 2016, approximately 358,000 jobs were directly attributable to employment by defense agencies  
3 and their contractors, 84,000 were generated through the supply chain, and 324,000 resulted from  
4 economic activity induced by the additional money in the economy.<sup>115</sup>

5           241. The economic activity generated by defense spending also resulted in significant  
6 tax revenues for California at the state and local level, estimated at \$5.8 billion total annually,  
7 including \$1.9 billion in income tax, \$1.7 billion in sales tax and \$1.3 billion in property tax.<sup>116</sup>

8           242. Certain regions of the state particularly rely on defense spending for employment,  
9 including Lassen County (with 18% of jobs reliant on defense spending) and San Diego (16%).<sup>117</sup>

10           243. In a briefing with reporters on February 15, 2019, White House officials (Acting  
11 Chief of Staff Mick Mulvaney, Defendant Nielsen, and Acting Director of the Office of  
12 Management and Budget Russell Vought) discussed the Administration’s plans to carry out the  
13 Emergency Declaration.<sup>118</sup> In response to a question regarding “which military construction  
14 projects will see the money moved for the border wall,” one Administration official stated during  
15 that briefing: “We would be looking at lower priority military construction projects. We would  
16 be looking at ones that are to fix or repair a particular facility that might be able to wait a couple  
17 of months into next year.”<sup>119</sup>

18           244. A number of military construction projects that could fit this description, and for  
19 which funds have been appropriated but are as yet unobligated, are planned in California.<sup>120</sup>  
20 These projects include repairs to existing military infrastructure. If Defendants determine that  
21 these projects can wait, funding for them could be diverted to the border wall, and California  
22 would be deprived of this federal funding and the resulting positive economic, employment, and  
23 tax consequences.

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24           <sup>115</sup> *Id.*

25           <sup>116</sup> *Id.*

26           <sup>117</sup> *Id.*

27           <sup>118</sup> White House, *Background Press Call on President Trump’s Remarks on the National  
28 Security and Humanitarian Crisis on Our Southern Border* (Feb. 15, 2019). This document was  
available on the White House website but then taken down that same day.

29           <sup>119</sup> *Id.*

30           <sup>120</sup> *E.g.*, DOD, *Construction Programs (C-1), Department of Defense Budget Fiscal Year  
2019* (Feb. 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/yy85dch9>.

1           245. If these types of projects are delayed due to the diversion of funding for border  
2 wall construction, California stands to suffer economic harm.

3           246. Other Plaintiff States will suffer similar harms due to diversion of military  
4 construction, drug interdiction, and drug forfeiture funding.

5                   **2. Environmental harms to the States of California and New Mexico**

6           247. On December 12, 2018, DHS announced that if it received \$5 billion in additional  
7 funding, it would use this funding to construct 330 miles of new barriers along the United States-  
8 Mexico border in areas that the United States Border Patrol identified as “highest priority” in each  
9 of the four border states. DHS specifically identified a five-mile barrier project in the CBP’s San  
10 Diego Sector (California), a nine-mile project in the CBP’s El Centro Sector (California), and a  
11 nine-mile project in the CBP’s El Paso Sector (New Mexico).<sup>121</sup>

12           248. CBP’s San Diego Sector is located in San Diego County, California and  
13 shares a 60-mile segment of the border with Mexico, 46 linear miles of which are already lined  
14 with primary fencing.<sup>122</sup> The only portions of the border located within the San Diego Sector that  
15 are not already lined with primary fencing are located in the southeastern portion of the county in  
16 or near the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area.<sup>123</sup> Thus, the only segment of the border within the  
17 San Diego Sector where DHS can construct new primary fencing, as it announced on December  
18 12, 2018, are areas within or near the Otay Wilderness Area.

19           249. CBP’s El Centro Sector is located within Imperial County, California, and shares a  
20 70-mile segment of the border with Mexico, 59 linear miles of which are already lined by primary  
21 fencing.<sup>124</sup> The only portions of the border located within the El Centro Sector that are not  
22 already lined with primary fencing are located in the southwestern portion of Imperial County,

23                   <sup>121</sup> DHS, *Walls Work* (Dec. 12, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y7ca6byc>.

24                   <sup>122</sup> CBP, *San Diego Sector California* (Jan. 26, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y5zgvftf>; Gov’t  
25 Accountability Off., *GAO-17-331, Southwest Border Security: Additional Actions Needed to  
26 Better Assess Fencing’s Contributions to Operations and Provide Guidance for Identifying  
27 Capability Gaps* 48, <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-331>.

26                   <sup>123</sup> CBP, *Border Fencing – California* (June 2011), <https://tinyurl.com/y24zbf4>; CBP,  
27 *FY17 U.S. Border Patrol Apprehensions (Deportable) & Fencing* (Dec. 6, 2017),  
28 <https://tinyurl.com/ydf146zk>.

27                   <sup>124</sup> CBP, *El Centro Sector California* (Apr. 11, 2018), <https://tinyurl.com/y5kpbk2e>;  
28 *Southwest Border Security*, *supra* note 122.

1 which is comprised of a mountainous landscape and the Jacumba Wilderness Area.<sup>125</sup> Thus, the  
2 only segment of the border within the El Centro Sector where DHS can construct new primary  
3 fencing, as it announced on December 12, 2018, are areas within or near the Jacumba Wilderness  
4 Area.

5 250. The Otay Mountain Wilderness and the Jacumba Wilderness areas are home to  
6 more than 100 sensitive plant and animal species that are listed as “endangered,” “threatened,” or  
7 “rare” under the federal Endangered Species Act of 1973, 16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq., and/or the  
8 California Endangered Species Act, Cal. Fish & Game Code § 2050 et seq. These species include  
9 the following federally and state endangered species: the Mexican flannel bush, Thornmint, the  
10 Quino Checkerspot Butterfly, the Southwestern Willow Flycatcher, and the Peninsular Desert  
11 Bighorn sheep.<sup>126</sup> Some of the listed plant species, such as the Tecate Cypress and the Mexican  
12 flannel bush, are so rare they can only be found in these wilderness areas.<sup>127</sup> The federally and  
13 state-endangered Peninsular Desert Bighorn sheep has a range that includes mountainous terrain  
14 in Mexico near the United States-Mexico border and extends north across the border through the  
15 Jacumba Wilderness to California’s Anza-Borrego State Park.<sup>128</sup>

16 251. The construction of border barriers within or near the Jacumba Wilderness Area  
17 and the Otay Mountain Wilderness Area will have significant adverse effects on environmental  
18 resources, including direct and indirect impacts to endangered or threatened wildlife. These  
19 injuries to California’s public trust resources would not occur but for Defendants’ unlawful and  
20 unconstitutional diversion of funds.

21 252. The construction of a border wall in the El Paso Sector along New Mexico’s

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 <sup>125</sup> CBP, *Border Fencing 2011 & 2017*, *supra* note 123.

24 <sup>126</sup> Cal. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, *Threatened and Endangered Species*,  
<https://tinyurl.com/7165784> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019); Wilderness Connect, *Jacumba*  
25 *Wilderness*, <https://tinyurl.com/y5yh23x5> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019); U.S. Bureau of Land  
26 Management, *Jacumba Wilderness* <https://tinyurl.com/y43hv424> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019); U.S.  
Bureau of Land Management, *Otay Mountain Wilderness* <https://tinyurl.com/y3zamvsh> (last  
visited Feb. 17, 2019); Wilderness Connect, *Otay Mountain Wilderness*,  
<https://tinyurl.com/y3ymkazz> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).

27 <sup>127</sup> Wilderness Connect, *Otay Mountain*, *supra* note 126.

28 <sup>128</sup> Cal. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife, *Peninsular Desert Bighorn Sheep*  
<https://tinyurl.com/yyvu5kwa> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).



1 southern border will have significant adverse effects on the State's environmental resources,  
2 including direct and indirect impacts to endangered or threatened wildlife.

3 253. If Defendants use the diverted funding announced in President Trump's February  
4 15 Executive Actions to construct any of the border wall in New Mexico, it will impose  
5 environmental harm to the State. The environmental damage caused by a border wall in New  
6 Mexico would include the blocking of wildlife migration, flooding, and habitat loss.<sup>129</sup>

7 254. The Chihuahuan desert bisected by the New Mexico-Mexico border is the most  
8 biologically diverse desert in the Western Hemisphere.<sup>130</sup> Species common along the border are a  
9 number of endangered, threatened, and candidate species including the beautiful shiner,  
10 Chiricahua leopard frog, jaguar, lesser long-nosed bat, loach minnow, Mexican long-nosed bat,  
11 Mexican spotted owl, Mexican wolf, narrow-headed gartersnake, New Mexican ridge-nosed rattle  
12 snake, northern aplomado falcon, northern Mexican gartersnake, southwestern willow flycatcher,  
13 spokedace, and yellow billed cuckoo.<sup>131</sup> A barrier built in the Chihuahuan desert is likely to  
14 disrupt or destroy habitat of these migratory animals, nesting birds and reclusive reptiles.

15 255. In particular, New Mexico's border is also home to the endangered Mexican gray  
16 wolf, the rarest subspecies of gray wolf in North America, which was nearly extirpated by the  
17 1970s and only recently reintroduced.<sup>132</sup> A wall impossible to breach may make it impossible for  
18 the wolf to disperse across the border to reestablish recently extirpated populations or bolster  
19 small existing populations. On March 14, 2018, the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish  
20 signed an agreement with the United States Department of Fish and Wildlife to increase  
21 cooperation in reintroduction of this species to the wild, evidencing the State's commitment to

22 \_\_\_\_\_  
23 <sup>129</sup> See Robert Peters et al., *Nature Divided, Scientists United: US-Mexico Border Wall Threatens Biodiversity and Binational Conservation*, BioScience (Oct. 2018),  
24 <https://tinyurl.com/y3t4ymfn>.

25 <sup>130</sup> Nat'l Park Service, *Chihuahuan Desert Ecoregion* (Sept. 20, 2018),  
26 <https://www.nps.gov/im/chdn/ecoregion.htm>.

27 <sup>131</sup> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., *Species By County Report*, <https://tinyurl.com/yxm wz9qm>  
28 (Hidalgo County, NM); <https://tinyurl.com/y4ojwrtq> (Luna County, NM) (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).

<sup>132</sup> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., *Mexican Wolf*, <https://tinyurl.com/y2hf5ea2> (last visited Feb. 17, 2019).



1 preventing the extinction of this species.

2 256. The segment of New Mexico’s border with Mexico that does not already have  
3 primary fencing is in the State’s “bootheel” region.<sup>133</sup> If Defendants’ diverted funding resulted in  
4 the construction of a barrier in New Mexico’s bootheel, it would cause environmental harm in  
5 one of the State’s most ecologically pristine and fragile regions. The bootheel is where temperate  
6 and subtropical climates converge, making it another of the most biologically diverse regions in  
7 the world, home to jaguars and wolves that coexist along the U.S.-Mexico border.<sup>134</sup> Recognizing  
8 the ecological importance of this region, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has designated large  
9 segments of the bootheel’s border with Mexico as critical habitat for the jaguar.<sup>135</sup>

10 257. Defendant DHS has not engaged in a public review of these adverse effects. By  
11 failing to do so at the earliest possible stage of the project’s planning process, DHS is violating  
12 the requirements of NEPA. *Robertson v. Methow Valley Citizen Council*, 490 U.S. 332, 348-49  
13 (1989); 40 C.F.R. §§ 1508.27(b)(9), (10). California and New Mexico have suffered, and will  
14 continue to suffer, injuries to their procedural rights under NEPA and the Administrative  
15 Procedure Act (APA), 5 U.S.C. § 551, and injuries to their concrete, quasi-sovereign interests  
16 relating to the preservation of wildlife resources within their boundaries, including but not limited  
17 to wildlife on state properties. *Massachusetts v. EPA*, 549 U.S. 497, 519-24 (2007); *Sierra Forest*  
18 *Legacy*, 646 F.3d at 1178.

19 **FIRST CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

20 **VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF POWERS**

21 258. Plaintiff States incorporate the allegations of the preceding paragraphs by  
22 reference.

23 259. Article I, Section 1 of the United States Constitution enumerates that “[a]ll  
24 legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in [the] Congress.” Article I, Section 8 of the

25 <sup>133</sup> CBP, *Border Fencing - New Mexico/West Texas* (June 2011),  
26 <https://tinyurl.com/y24zbf4>.

27 <sup>134</sup> Lauren Villagran, *Land That Time Forgot*, Albuquerque J. (Apr. 30, 2017),  
<https://tinyurl.com/mxqht6r>.

28 <sup>135</sup> U.S. Fish & Wildlife Serv., *Jaguar (Panthera onca)*, <https://tinyurl.com/y6qqjdjl> (last  
visited Feb. 17, 2019); 79 Fed. Reg. 12571 (Mar. 5, 2014).

1 United States Constitution vests exclusively in Congress the spending power to “provide for  
2 the . . . General Welfare of the United States.”

3 260. Article I, Section 7, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, known as the  
4 Presentment Clause, requires that all bills passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate  
5 be presented to the President for signature. The President then has the choice to sign or veto the  
6 bill. Article II, Section 3 of the United States Constitution requires that the President “shall take  
7 Care that the Laws be faithfully executed.”

8 261. The President acts at the lowest ebb of his power if he acts contrary to the  
9 expressed or implied will of Congress. *Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer*, 343 U.S. 579,  
10 637 (1952) (Jackson, J., concurring). Moreover, there is no provision in the United States  
11 Constitution that authorizes the President to enact, amend, or repeal statutes, including  
12 appropriations already approved by Congress and signed into law by the President. *Clinton v.*  
13 *City of New York*, 524 U.S. 417, 438 (1998).

14 262. Defendants have violated the United States Constitution’s separation of powers  
15 doctrine by taking executive action to fund a border wall for which Congress has refused to  
16 appropriate funding. The 2019 Appropriations Act is an explicit denial of the President’s  
17 requested funding for a border wall. Defendants have further violated the separation of powers  
18 doctrine—specifically the Presentment Clause—by unilaterally diverting funding that Congress  
19 already appropriated for other purposes to fund a border wall for which Congress has provided no  
20 appropriations.

21 263. For the reasons stated herein, Plaintiffs are entitled to a declaration that  
22 Defendants’ diversion of funding toward the construction of a border wall is unconstitutional, and  
23 the Court should enjoin Defendants’ implementation of the President’s Executive Actions.

## 24 **SECOND CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

### 25 **VIOLATION OF APPROPRIATIONS CLAUSE**

26 264. Plaintiff States incorporate the allegations of the preceding paragraphs by  
27 reference.

28 265. Article I, Section 9, Clause 7, known as the Appropriations Clause, provides that

1 “[n]o Money shall be drawn from the treasury, but in Consequence of Appropriations made by  
2 Law.” The Appropriations Clause is a “straightforward and explicit command” that “no money  
3 can be paid out of the Treasury unless it has been appropriated by an act of Congress.” *Office of*  
4 *Pers. Mgmt. v. Richmond*, 496 U.S. 414, 424 (1990) (quoting *Cincinnati Soap Co. v. United*  
5 *States*, 301 U.S. 308, 321 (1937)).

6 266. Congress has not authorized or appropriated the funding that President Trump has  
7 declared he will use towards the construction of a border wall. Defendants have therefore  
8 violated the Appropriations Clause by funding construction of the border wall with funds that  
9 were not appropriated for that purpose.

10 267. For the reasons stated herein, Plaintiffs are entitled to a declaration that  
11 Defendants’ diversion of funding toward the construction of a border wall is unconstitutional, and  
12 the Court should enjoin Defendants’ implementation of the President’s Executive Actions.

### 13 **THIRD CLAIM FOR RELIEF**

#### 14 **ULTRA VIRES**

15 268. Plaintiff States incorporate the allegations of the preceding paragraphs by  
16 reference.

17 269. Neither the President nor an agency can take any action that exceeds the scope of  
18 their constitutional and/or statutory authority.

19 270. The President has acted ultra vires in seeking to divert funding pursuant to the  
20 National Emergencies Act because no emergency exists to warrant the invocation of that statute.

21 271. In addition, Defendants have acted ultra vires in seeking to divert funding pursuant  
22 to 10 U.S.C. section 2808 for failure to meet the criteria required under that statute. The  
23 construction of the border wall: (a) is not a “military construction project”; (b) does not “require[]  
24 use of the armed forces”; and (c) is not “necessary to support such use of the armed forces.”

25 272. Defendants have acted ultra vires in seeking to divert funding pursuant to 10  
26 U.S.C. section 284 for failure to meet the criteria required under that statute. The construction of  
27 the border wall: (a) does not constitute the construction of a road or fence; and (b) does not assist  
28 the blocking of “drug smuggling corridors.”



1 C.F.R. § 1502.23.

2 280. Defendant DHS is in violation of NEPA and the APA because it failed to prepare  
3 an EIS concerning border wall development projects that will have adverse effects on the  
4 environment, including but not limited to direct, indirect and cumulative impacts on plant and  
5 animal species that are listed as endangered or threatened under the Endangered Species Act  
6 and/or California Endangered Species Act.

7 281. The imminency of this action is shown by the Trump Administration’s expression  
8 of its intent to move quickly with the construction of the border wall, with a senior advisor to the  
9 White House reportedly saying that the Administration will proceed with construction at a speed  
10 that will “shock” people.<sup>137</sup> In addition, during his speech announcing the Emergency  
11 Declaration, President Trump spoke of his desire to build the wall “much faster” that he could  
12 otherwise.<sup>138</sup>

13 282. The States of California and New Mexico have concrete and particularized  
14 interests in the protection of their own proprietary interests near the border as well as the  
15 protection of natural, historical, cultural, economic, and recreational resources within their  
16 jurisdictional boundaries. Defendants’ failure to comply with NEPA and the APA injures and  
17 denies California’s and New Mexico’s procedural rights necessary to protect these interests.

### 18 PRAYER FOR RELIEF

19 WHEREFORE, Plaintiff States respectfully request that this Court enter judgment in their  
20 favor, and grant the following relief:

21 1. Issue a judicial declaration that the Executive Actions’ diversion of federal funds  
22 toward construction of a border wall is unconstitutional and/or unlawful because it: (a) violates  
23 the separation of powers doctrine; (b) violates the Appropriations Clause; and (c) exceeds  
24 congressional authority conferred to the Executive Branch and is ultra vires;

25 2. The States of California and New Mexico seek a judicial declaration that  
26 Defendants violated NEPA and the APA and further seek an order enjoining DHS, requiring it to

27 <sup>137</sup> Rachael Bade et al., ‘A Recipe for Disaster’? Trump’s Border Emergency Drags the  
28 *GOP into a Risky Fight Ahead of 2020*, Wash. Post (Feb. 15, 2019), <https://tinyurl.com/y4l3lu99>.

<sup>138</sup> White House, *President Trump’s Feb. 15, 2019, Remarks*, supra note 50.

1 comply with NEPA and the APA—including preparing an EIS—before taking any further action  
2 pursuant to the Executive Actions;

3 3. Permanently enjoin Defendants from constructing a border wall without an  
4 appropriation by Congress for that purpose;

5 4. Permanently enjoin Defendants from diverting federal funding toward construction  
6 of a border wall; and

7 5. Grant such other relief as the Court may deem just and proper.

8  
9 Dated: February 18, 2019

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