



February 5, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker of the House
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
Senate Minority Leader
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mike Turner
Chair, House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence
2183 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mark Warner
Chair, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Green
Chair, House Committee on Homeland Security
2446 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
Chair, House Republican Conference
543 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Subject: A Clear and Present Danger to America Exists

Dear Mr. Speaker, Senate Majority Leader, Senate Minority Leader, and Chairpersons,

Post 9/11, we were all taught a simple new rule: “If you see something, say something.” As former senior executives in United States law enforcement and elected officials from across the nation, we join a growing chorus in sounding the alarm. We see something, and we are saying something.

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The life and liberty of all Americans is in clear and present danger. Failure to secure our borders and enforce laws governing the lawful and orderly entrance into the United States has resulted in millions of unvetted persons entering our country illegally—a situation reasonably categorized as an invasion. Today, the United States faces elevated risk on multiple fronts because of the influx of drugs and increase of violent crime stemming from an open border.

As men and women who have spent our careers and lives fulfilling an oath to “preserve, protect, and defend the Constitution of the United States,” and in that, to promote the security of her people, we raise an alarm today to say that threats to our national security are currently walking into the nation unchecked and unhindered on a daily basis. For those of us whose service to the nation consisted primarily of overseeing the incarceration of some of America’s worst criminal offenders, we collectively alert you today that what once was mostly contained behind bars in this nation now roams through America’s streets. We have given decades to separating law abiding citizens from dangerous drug cartels, thieves, rapists, murderers, and child traffickers, and now we observe that individuals of the same caliber and criminal history enter the nation virtually unrestricted. An undeniably porous border and a lack of a coherent interdiction strategy have all but eliminated an essential buffer zone to identify and intercept bad actors pouring into our nation, and the result has been the tragic unleashing of crime upon innocent Americans. With at least 1.7 million known “gotaways” having evaded apprehension since 2021, America faces perhaps the most substantial threat to the homeland in modern times.

Consider these figures reported from fiscal year 2023:

- In 2023, U.S. Customs and Border Protection seized 27,293 pounds of Fentanyl – enough to kill about 6 billion people. Federal officials estimate that they only seize 5 to 10 percent of illegal drugs smuggled across the southwest border. (*Homeland Security Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, October 2023*)
- Fiscal year 2023 saw a 72 percent increase from 2022 in southwest border arrests of individuals on the terrorist watchlist. (*Homeland Security Committee, U.S. House of Representatives, October 2023*)
- The number of illegal immigrants on the non-detained docket has risen to nearly 6.2 million in 2023 compared with 3.7 million in 2021. (*U.S. Immigrations and Customs Enforcement Annual Report, December 2023*)

Our Constitution, our history, and our laws support new citizens coming to our country legally. What can never become accepted, however, is selectively and systematically ignoring existing laws and in so doing rendering the nation’s border effectively open. The United States fights for other countries’ borders to be respected and protected, and it is past time that the United States defend her own borders.

After our homeland was attacked on September 11, we, as senior executives and elected officials, redoubled our commitments and resolve to share intelligence that would identify threats and protect American lives including through participation in Joint Terrorism Task Force meetings and operations. We have stood firmly upon the simple idea that “if you see something, say something,” and we do that again today.

Please heed our alert. Allow well-meaning, new immigrants to come to our door and knock, but refuse giving ill-intentioned, hostile adversaries a foothold to harm our republic. We urge emphatically the immediate securing of the United States border.

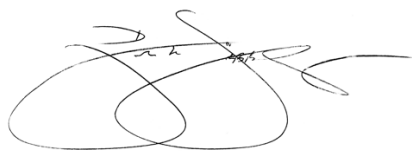
Sincerely,



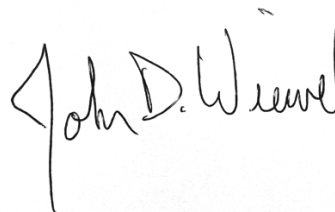
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U.S. Senior Executive Service (Ret.)
Founder & CEO Summit 27
Author of *Challenge Accepted*



Cathy Linaweaver
Warden, Federal Bureau of Prisons
U.S. Senior Executive Service (Ret.)
Wichita State University Adjunct Faculty,
Former



Mr. Bryan Dobbs
Senior Deputy Assistant Director
Federal Bureau of Prisons
U.S. Senior Executive Service (Ret.)



John D. Wiewel
Special Agent
Internal Revenue Service
Department of Treasury (Ret.)



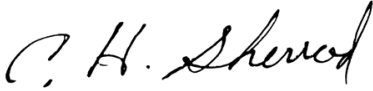
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Texarkana College Faculty (Ret.)



Dale Walker
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J.T. Lawson
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Federal Bureau of Prisons Warden (Ret.)
Alabama Department of Corrections, Deputy
Commissioner (Former)

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