



*What key factors should policymakers consider when addressing the complex and contentious issue of immigration reform in the United States?*

# **A Balanced Approach to US Border Policy 2024**

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(Skrzypczak, 2024)The ongoing debates surrounding immigration and border security in the United States are inherently complex, often contentious, and have significant implications for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole. As policymakers consider potential reforms, it is crucial to approach the issue with a balanced and nuanced perspective that considers the multifaceted nature of migration patterns, the effectiveness of various enforcement strategies, and the diverse needs and perspectives of stakeholders (Jacobs, 2019) (Mazza, 2017).

One key consideration is the evolving nature of migration flows into the United States. While the US-Mexico border has historically been a central focus of immigration policy, recent data suggests a declining role of border crossings as the primary source of undocumented migration (Mazza, 2017). Instead, visa overstays and non-border entry points have become increasingly significant challenges (Mazza, 2017). Consequently, any comprehensive border policy must address these shifting dynamics and prioritize a diverse array of enforcement strategies beyond just physical border barriers.

Moreover, the composition of migrants arriving at the border has also undergone significant changes, with asylum seekers from Central America now comprising a larger share of arrivals (Alden, 2017). This population presents unique considerations, as they may face significant threats in their countries of origin and are often protected under international laws governing asylum (Alden, 2017). Effectively balancing border enforcement with the rights and needs of asylum-seekers will be a critical component of any successful border policy.

In addition to understanding the evolving nature of migration patterns, policymakers must also carefully evaluate the effectiveness and unintended consequences of various border enforcement strategies. While border security has had some successes in reducing illegal entry, there are concerns that deterrence-based approaches are producing diminishing returns and may be ill-suited to address the growing population of asylum-seekers (Alden, 2017). Alternative approaches, such as focusing on non-border policies like enhanced employer sanctions and improved tracking of visa overstays, may be more cost-effective and better aligned with the current realities of migration (Mazza, 2017).

Ultimately, crafting a balanced and effective border policy will require a nuanced understanding of the complex dynamics at play, a willingness to consider a diverse array of policy approaches, and a commitment to addressing the needs and concerns of all stakeholders, including migrants, border communities, and the broader American public.

## Funding Requirements

To effectively implement a comprehensive border policy that addresses the evolving nature of migration and the diverse needs of stakeholders, the following funding requirements should be considered:

Increased investment in non-border enforcement strategies, such as enhanced data collection and analysis to track visa overstays, improved coordination with employers to enforce sanctions against the hiring of undocumented workers, and the expansion of community-based programs that provide legal services and support for asylum-seekers (Mazza, 2017).

Sufficient resources to ensure the fair and humane processing of asylum claims, including the hiring and training of additional immigration judges, the provision of legal

representation for asylum-seekers, and the improvement of detention facilities to meet minimum standards of care (Williams, 2015).

Funding for the development and implementation of innovative border security technologies, such as advanced surveillance systems and data-driven decision-making tools, that can enhance the effectiveness of enforcement efforts while minimizing the use of physical barriers and the potential for negative impacts on border communities (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017).

Ongoing investment in cross-border collaboration and information-sharing with international partners, as well as the expansion of programs that address the root causes of migration in countries of origin, such as economic development initiatives and the promotion of human rights (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017)

Ultimately, the funding requirements for a balanced and effective border policy must be carefully calibrated to address the multifaceted nature of migration and border security, while upholding the values of fairness, compassion, and respect for the rule of law. This includes allocating resources to enhance non-border enforcement strategies, ensure fair and humane asylum processing, develop innovative border security technologies, and foster international collaboration and address root causes of migration. By taking a comprehensive and nuanced approach to border policy, policymakers can work towards a system that enhances national security, respects human rights, and meets the evolving challenges of the 21st century.

Additionally, it is crucial to invest in strengthening local communities along the border, providing resources for infrastructure development, economic opportunities, and social services that can improve the quality of life for residents and support effective border management. Furthermore, regular evaluation and adaptation of border policies will be necessary to respond to changing circumstances and ensure the continued effectiveness of enforcement efforts. Overall, a well-funded, multi-faceted approach to border policy that prioritizes both security and humanitarian considerations can help the United States navigate the complex challenges of migration in a manner that upholds the nation's values and furthers its interests.

### Funding Proposal:

The proposed border policy funding would be allocated as follows:

- \$91.5 billion for the enhancement of non-border enforcement strategies, such as greater investment in anti-trafficking initiatives, economic development programs in countries of origin, and diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of migration (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017)(Alden, 2017).

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- \$ 151 billion for the improvement of asylum processing systems, including increased staffing, training, and technology to ensure fair and humane treatment of asylum seekers (Alden, 2017) (Williams, 2015).
- \$89 billion for the development and deployment of innovative border security technologies, such as advanced surveillance, detection, and interdiction capabilities, to enhance the effectiveness of physical border infrastructure (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017).
- 111 billion for fostering international collaboration, strengthening regional partnerships, and supporting development initiatives in countries of origin to address the push factors of migration .\$( Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017)(Mazza, 2017)
- \$84 billion for investment in border community development, including funding for infrastructure, economic opportunities, and social services to improve the quality of life for residents and support effective border management .
- \$588 billion for strengthening local border communities, including funding for infrastructure projects, economic development initiatives, and social services that can improve the quality of life for residents and support effective border management (Williams, 2015) (Pham & Komiyama, 2024).(Williams, 2015) (Mazza, 2017)

The total funding request for this comprehensive border policy proposal is \$915 billion over a 5-year period.

This multifaceted approach aims to enhance national security, respect human rights, and address the complex challenges of migration in the 21st century.

This approach aims to balance security considerations with humanitarian concerns, while addressing the complex and evolving nature of border management challenges.

The key elements of the funding proposal include:

- Enhancing non-border enforcement strategies, such as greater investment in anti-trafficking initiatives, economic development programs in countries of origin, and diplomatic efforts to address the root causes of migration.
- Improving asylum processing systems, including increased staffing, training, and technology to ensure fair and humane treatment of asylum seekers.

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- Developing and deploying innovative border security technologies, such as advanced surveillance, detection, and interdiction capabilities, to enhance the effectiveness of physical border infrastructure.
- Fostering international collaboration, strengthening regional partnerships, and supporting development initiatives in countries of origin to address the push factors of migration.
- Investing in border community development, including funding for infrastructure, economic opportunities, and social services to improve the quality of life for residents and support effective border management.

The total funding request for this comprehensive border policy proposal is \$915 billion over a 5-year period.

The total funding request for this comprehensive border policy proposal is \$915 billion over a 5-year period. However, to account for potential changes in the value of the dollar relative to the goods and services required to implement this policy, the proposed funding should be indexed to an appropriate measure, such as the Consumer Price Index or the Gross Domestic Product deflator.

By indexing the funding to an economic indicator that tracks the general price level, the appropriated funds can be adjusted annually to ensure they maintain their purchasing power and keep pace with the evolving costs associated with the various components of the border policy. This approach will help ensure that the proposed investments in non-border enforcement strategies, asylum processing systems, border security technologies, international collaboration, and border community development are able to effectively meet the needs of the changing migration landscape over the course of the 5-year implementation period.

The specific indexing mechanism and the frequency of adjustments should be determined in consultation with the Office of Management and Budget, the Congressional Budget Office, and other relevant government agencies to ensure the funding remains aligned with the actual costs of program implementation. This indexing provision will help safeguard the long-term viability and effectiveness of the comprehensive border policy, even as economic conditions fluctuate over time.

### **Rationale and Considerations:**

The proposed funding for this comprehensive border policy is justified by the need to address the complex and multifaceted challenges of migration and border security in the 21st century. The objectives of this proposal are grounded in the Constitution and the legitimate authorities of various federal agencies:

**Objective 1:** Enhance non-border enforcement strategies through investments in anti-trafficking initiatives, economic development programs in countries of origin, and diplomatic efforts to address root causes of migration. This falls under the purview of the Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Justice, as they have the constitutional authority to conduct foreign policy, enforce immigration laws, and combat human trafficking.

**Objective 2:** Improve asylum processing systems, including increased staffing, training, and technology, to ensure fair and humane treatment of asylum seekers. This is the responsibility of the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice, as they have the authority to administer the asylum system and uphold due process for individuals seeking protection.

**Objective 3:** Develop and deploy innovative border security technologies, such as advanced surveillance, detection, and interdiction capabilities, to enhance the effectiveness of physical border infrastructure. The Department of Homeland Security, specifically the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, has the constitutional mandate to secure the nation's borders and maintain the integrity of the immigration system.

**Objective 4:** Foster international collaboration, strengthen regional partnerships, and support development initiatives in countries of origin to address the push factors of migration. The Department of State, in coordination with the U.S. Agency for International Development, has the authority to engage in diplomatic efforts and provide foreign assistance to address the root causes of migration.

**Objective 5:** Invest in border community development, including funding for infrastructure, economic opportunities, and social services, to improve the quality of life for residents and support effective border management. This involves collaboration between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Department of Commerce, all of which have the authority to support community development and economic revitalization in areas affected by border management challenges.

This comprehensive and coordinated approach, involving multiple federal agencies and adherence to the Constitution, is essential to effectively address the complex realities of migration and border security in the 21st century.

The proposed funding for this comprehensive border policy is justified by the need to address the complex and multifaceted challenges facing the United States in effectively managing its borders and addressing the drivers of migration in the 21st century. (Terrorism: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Improving Responses, 2004) (Alden, 2017)

The proposed funding for this comprehensive border policy is further justified by the need to address the complex and multifaceted challenges facing the United States in effectively managing its borders and addressing the drivers of migration in the 21st century. This investment will help strengthen local border communities, improve infrastructure and economic opportunities, and provide critical social services to enhance the quality of life for residents. It will also support more effective border management strategies, foster international collaboration, and tackle the root causes of migration. The comprehensive and coordinated approach, involving multiple federal agencies and adherence to the Constitution, is essential to addressing the evolving realities of border security in a humane and effective manner. By investing in this comprehensive border policy, the United States can enhance national security, respect human rights, and develop sustainable solutions to the complex issues of migration and border management in the modern era.

## **Oversight and Audit Controls and Processes:**

To ensure transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of taxpayer funds, robust oversight and audit controls will be implemented for this comprehensive border policy initiative. This will include:

- Regular audits and financial reviews conducted by the Government Accountability Office and the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Inspector General to evaluate program performance, cost-effectiveness, and compliance with relevant laws and regulations.
- Establishment of an independent border oversight commission, comprising representatives from relevant federal agencies, congressional committees, and civil society organizations, to provide ongoing monitoring and evaluation of the program's implementation, effectiveness, and adherence to human rights standards.
- Mandatory public reporting of program expenditures, performance metrics, and progress updates on a quarterly basis to ensure transparency and allow for congressional and public scrutiny.
- Whistleblower protections and channels for reporting waste, fraud, or abuse to facilitate the identification and resolution of any issues that may arise during the implementation of this border policy.

- Periodic third-party assessments and program evaluations to identify areas for improvement and ensure the continued relevance and effectiveness of the border policy initiatives over time.

These robust oversight and audit controls will be crucial to maintaining the integrity, accountability, and long-term success of this comprehensive border policy approach.

## **Public-Private Partnerships**

In addition to the government-led initiatives, the comprehensive border policy will also leverage public-private partnerships to enhance its effectiveness. These collaborative efforts between the public sector and private industry have proven successful in addressing various border security and migration management challenges.

One example of a successful public-private partnership is the Border Enforcement Security Task Force, a joint initiative between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and local law enforcement agencies, working in coordination with private sector companies. BEST has demonstrated the ability to disrupt transnational criminal organizations involved in human smuggling, drug trafficking, and other illicit activities along the border.

Another example is the Secure Freight Initiative, a collaboration between the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Energy, and various private shipping and logistics companies. This partnership has leveraged advanced technologies, such as non-intrusive inspection equipment and radiation detection systems, to enhance the security and efficiency of cross-border cargo movements.

By fostering these types of public-private partnerships, the comprehensive border policy can tap into the expertise, resources, and innovative capabilities of the private sector to complement the government's efforts. This will help ensure a more holistic and effective approach to addressing the complex challenges of border management and migration.

## **Infrastructure Security Considerations**

The comprehensive border policy also includes provisions for enhanced cybersecurity and the leveraging of innovative technologies to strengthen border security. This will involve close coordination with the Department of Homeland Security's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to identify and mitigate cyber threats targeting border management systems and infrastructure.

To ensure the effective implementation of these cybersecurity and technology-based initiatives, the policy will adhere to the National Institute of Standards and Technology Cybersecurity Framework and other relevant federal guidelines and best practices.



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Additionally, the State Department will be engaged to facilitate collaboration and information-sharing with international partners, fostering a coordinated global approach to addressing transnational cyber threats and cross-border challenges.

The funding for these cybersecurity and technology provisions will be used to invest in advanced detection systems, secure communication networks, and data analytics capabilities to enhance real-time situational awareness and decision-making. This will help the United States stay ahead of evolving threats and maintain the integrity and resilience of its border management systems in the digital age.

The implementation of this comprehensive border policy will require significant funding to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. The total estimated budget for this initiative is an additional \$15 billion, over the initial 915 billion, over a five-year period, with annual allocations as follows:

Year 1: \$3 billion;

Year 2: \$3.5 billion;

Year 3: \$3 billion;

Year 4: \$2.5 billion;

Year 5: \$3 billion (Alden, 2017).

This funding will be used to support a range of activities, including: the construction, maintenance, and modernization of physical border infrastructure, such as fencing, roads, and surveillance systems; the deployment of advanced technologies, including sensors, cameras, and data analytics platforms, to enhance situational awareness and real-time decision-making; the expansion of personnel and training for Border Patrol agents, immigration officers, and other relevant law enforcement personnel; the enhancement of coordination and information-sharing between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, as well as international partners,

In addition, a supplementary \$47 billion dollars, over a five-year period, to disrupt transnational criminal networks and address the root causes of irregular migration; and the establishment of robust oversight, accountability, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the effective and responsible implementation of the border policy.

This would be allocated as follows:

Year 1: \$10 billion;

Year 2: \$9 billion;

Year 3: \$9 billion;

Year 4: \$9 billion;

Year 5: \$10 billion (Alden, 2017).

The implementation of this comprehensive border policy will require significant funding to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. The total estimated budget for this initiative is an additional \$18 billion, over a five-year period, with annual allocations as follows:

Year 1: \$3 billion;

Year 2: \$3.5 billion;

Year 3: \$3 billion;

Year 4: \$3 billion;

Year 5: \$3.5 billion (Alden, 2017).

This funding will be used to support a range of activities, including: the construction, maintenance, and modernization of physical border infrastructure, such as fencing, roads, and surveillance systems; the deployment of advanced technologies, including sensors, cameras, and data analytics platforms, to enhance situational awareness and real-time decision-making; the expansion of personnel and training for Border Patrol agents, immigration officers, and other relevant law enforcement personnel; the enhancement of coordination and information-sharing between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, as well as international partners; and the establishment of robust oversight, accountability, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the effective and responsible implementation of the border policy

## **National Security Concerns**

In addition to the funding for border infrastructure and technology, this comprehensive border policy also includes provisions for increased funding to national security agencies to enhance their capabilities in addressing border-related threats. This includes:

- Increasing funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to expand its efforts in disrupting transnational criminal organizations and investigating cross-border crimes such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and terrorism.
- Allocating additional resources to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hire and train more personnel, acquire advanced surveillance and interdiction equipment, and improve coordination with state and local law enforcement.

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- Providing increased funding to the National Security Agency and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to strengthen border-related cybersecurity measures, including the protection of critical infrastructure and the detection and mitigation of cyber threats targeting border management systems.
- Expanding the budgets of intelligence agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency, to enhance their ability to gather, analyze, and disseminate actionable intelligence related to border security and transnational criminal activities.

This additional funding for national security agencies will be crucial in ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated approach to addressing the complex challenges at the United States' borders, ultimately contributing to the overall security and resilience of the nation.

The implementation of this comprehensive border policy will require significant funding to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. The total estimated budget for this initiative is an additional \$20 billion, over a five-year period, with annual allocations as follows:

Year 1: \$4 billion;

Year 2: \$4 billion;

Year 3: \$4 billion;

Year 4: \$4 billion;

Year 5: \$4 billion (Alden, 2017).

This funding will be used to support a range of activities, including:

Constructing, maintaining, and modernizing physical border infrastructure, such as fencing, roads, and surveillance systems; deploying advanced technologies, including sensors, cameras, and data analytics platforms, to enhance situational awareness and real-time decision-making; expanding personnel and training for Border Patrol agents, immigration officers, and other relevant law enforcement personnel; enhancing coordination and information-sharing between federal, state, local, and tribal agencies, as well as international partners; and establishing robust oversight, accountability, and evaluation mechanisms to ensure the effective and responsible implementation of the border policy.

In addition to the funding for border infrastructure and technology, this comprehensive border policy also includes provisions for increased funding to national security agencies to enhance their capabilities in addressing border-related threats. This includes: increasing funding for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to expand its efforts in disrupting transnational criminal organizations and investigating cross-border crimes, such as human trafficking, drug smuggling, and terrorism; allocating additional resources to the Department of Homeland Security's Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement to hire and train more personnel, acquire advanced surveillance and interdiction equipment, and improve coordination with state and local law enforcement; providing increased funding to the National Security Agency and Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to strengthen border-related cybersecurity measures, including the protection of critical infrastructure and the detection and mitigation of cyber threats targeting border management systems; and expanding the budgets of intelligence agencies, such as the Central Intelligence Agency and Defense Intelligence Agency, to enhance their ability to gather, analyze, and disseminate actionable intelligence related to border security and transnational criminal activities (Alden, 2017) (Rosenblum, 2012).

## **Community-based and Grassroots Initiatives**

Community-based and grassroots initiatives play a vital role in the long-term effectiveness and efficiency of border management programs. By integrating national efforts with locally-tailored strategies, these community-driven efforts can help ensure the stability and viability of border policies over time.

Local communities possess unparalleled knowledge of their unique challenges, needs, and resources. Community-based grant programs empower residents, non-profits, and other stakeholders to develop and implement border management approaches that are responsive to their regional contexts. This grounded, bottom-up approach fosters trust, collaboration, and accountability between government entities and the populations most impacted by border policies.

Furthermore, community-led initiatives can serve as force multipliers for national border security efforts. By establishing local information sharing networks, coordinating crisis response plans, and promoting community-law enforcement cooperation, these grassroots efforts strengthen situational awareness and improve timely, targeted interventions at the border. They also enable community-driven solutions to address the social, economic, and environmental impacts of border policies, ensuring more holistic and sustainable outcomes.

Overall, the integration of community-based and grassroots initiatives is essential for the long-term effectiveness, efficiency, and viability of a comprehensive border policy. By empowering local stakeholders and aligning national and community-level efforts, this

approach can help create more stable, resilient, and equitable border management systems that serve the interests of all Americans.

In addition to the funding for border infrastructure and technology, this comprehensive border policy will also include provisions for community-based grant initiatives to support the implementation of the border policy at the local level. These grant programs will be designed to empower and engage local communities, non-profit organizations, and other stakeholders in the development and execution of border management strategies that are tailored to the unique needs and challenges of their respective regions.

The community-based grant initiatives will provide funding for a range of activities, including:

- Developing local border security and crisis response plans in coordination with federal, state, and tribal authorities
- Establishing community-led information sharing and coordination mechanisms to improve situational awareness and facilitate timely response to border-related incidents
- Implementing community-based programs to enhance trust and cooperation between law enforcement and local residents, particularly in border communities
- Supporting the establishment of community-based social services and integration programs to assist individuals and families affected by border policies, including migrants, refugees, and local residents
- Funding local initiatives to promote environmental sustainability and the protection of natural resources along the border region
- Enabling community-driven efforts to address the social and economic impacts of border policies, such as job training, small business development, and infrastructure improvements

By leveraging the knowledge, resources, and engagement of local communities, these grant initiatives will help ensure that the border policy is responsive to the unique needs and concerns of the people most directly impacted by its implementation. This community-based approach will also foster greater trust, collaboration, and accountability in the overall border management process.

The proposed border policy also includes funding for public interest research groups to further study progress from a grassroots-level. This allocation of \$500 million annually will support non-profit, non-partisan organizations that engage local communities and advocate for evidence-based policy solutions. PIRGs will examine the implementation and impact of the border policy initiatives, provide independent oversight, and give voice to diverse stakeholder perspectives. Their research and advocacy will help ensure the border policy remains responsive to the needs and concerns of all affected communities. By empowering grassroots movements and amplifying underrepresented voices, this funding will enhance the transparency, accountability, and long-term sustainability of the border security framework.

## **Review and Oversight of Programs and Policies**

To further strengthen the implementation and oversight of this comprehensive border policy, the proposed legislation will include the establishment of a bipartisan Border Policy Review Commission. This independent commission will be tasked with:

1. Conducting regular, comprehensive assessments of the policy's effectiveness, efficiency, and impact, including its impact on border communities, the environment, and civil liberties;
2. Evaluating the allocation and use of funds appropriated for border security, infrastructure, and related initiatives;
3. Identifying potential areas for improvement, cost savings, and the reallocation of resources to more effective and efficient programs;
4. Providing Congress with detailed, fact-based reports and recommendations to inform future policy decisions and budget allocations;
5. Ensuring that the implementation of the border policy adheres to the principles of transparency, accountability, and respect for human rights.

By establishing this independent commission, the proposed legislation will help to ensure that the border policy is continuously evaluated, refined, and adapted to address evolving challenges and changing circumstances. The bipartisan composition of the commission will also help to maintain a nonpartisan, evidence-based approach to border management, free from political bias or partisan agendas.

In conclusion, this comprehensive border policy proposal outlines a balanced, multifaceted approach to securing the United States' borders, promoting public safety, and addressing the complex social, economic, and environmental issues related to border management. By incorporating funding for infrastructure and technology, strengthening national security capabilities, empowering local communities, and establishing robust oversight mechanisms, this proposal aims to create a more effective, efficient, and accountable border management system that serves the best interests of all Americans, while upholding the nation's values and commitments to human rights and the rule of law (Homeland Security Digital Library, 2012) (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023) (Andreas, 2006).

## **Clawback Provisions, Escrow Accounts, and Continuous Improvement**

The comprehensive border policy will include provisions for the establishment of escrow accounts and clawback mechanisms to ensure the responsible and accountable use of appropriated funds.

To further strengthen the oversight and enforcement of this comprehensive border policy, the proposed legislation will include clawback provisions that enable the federal government to recoup funds from state or local authorities that fail to comply with the policy's requirements or misuse grant resources. These clawback mechanisms will be coupled with enhanced coordination between the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation to investigate and prosecute any instances of fraud, abuse, or mismanagement related to border security funding and programs.

The Department of Justice and the FBI will play a critical role in upholding the integrity of the border policy by conducting thorough audits, forensic analyses, and criminal investigations of any allegations of misconduct or misuse of funds. This coordination will ensure that state and local entities receiving grant funding for border-related initiatives are held accountable for the proper and effective use of those resources. Additionally, the clawback provisions will serve as a deterrent against any attempts to divert or misappropriate funds, as the federal government will have the authority to reclaim monies that are not being used in accordance with the policy's objectives and requirements.

By integrating these clawback mechanisms and enhanced law enforcement coordination, the proposed border policy will strengthen the overall system of checks and balances, promoting transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars in the implementation of border security measures. This multi-layered approach to oversight and enforcement will help to ensure that the border policy

delivers on its promises of enhancing national security, supporting local communities, and upholding the rule of law.

By integrating these clawback mechanisms and enhanced law enforcement coordination, the proposed border policy will strengthen the overall system of checks and balances, promoting transparency, accountability, and the responsible use of taxpayer dollars in the implementation of border security measures. This multi-layered approach to oversight and enforcement will help to ensure that the border policy delivers on its promises of enhancing national security, supporting local communities, and upholding the rule of law.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation will establish a comprehensive program for the ongoing training and professional development of border security personnel. This program will include modules on de-escalation techniques, cultural sensitivity, and respect for human rights, ensuring that border agents are equipped with the necessary skills and knowledge to effectively carry out their duties while maintaining the highest standards of conduct and ethical behavior. Regular performance reviews and accountability measures will be implemented to monitor the conduct of border security personnel and address any instances of misconduct or abuse of power.

To complement the border security training program, the proposed legislation will also mandate the implementation of robust body-worn camera and dashboard camera systems for all border security personnel engaged in enforcement activities. These camera systems will provide an additional layer of transparency and accountability, allowing for the objective documentation of interactions between border agents and the public. Footage from these cameras will be subject to regular review and audits, and any identified instances of improper conduct will be addressed through appropriate disciplinary measures.

The proposed border policy seeks to strike a careful balance between enhancing national security and upholding the rights and dignity of all individuals, including immigrants and asylum seekers. By incorporating these oversight, accountability, and training measures, the policy aims to ensure that border security operations are carried out in a professional, humane, and non-discriminatory manner, while still maintaining the integrity and effectiveness of the border protection system. (Orrenius & Zavodny, 2019) (Rosenblum, 2012) (Alden, 2017) (Andreas, 2006)

## **Supporting State Department Efforts and International Cooperation**



The proposed border policy also includes a dedicated funding stream for the Department of State to support key objectives in the broader border management strategy. These State Department objectives include:

1. Enhancing diplomatic engagement with source and transit countries to address the root causes of irregular migration, such as political instability, economic insecurity, and human rights abuses. This will involve increased foreign aid, technical assistance, and collaboration on joint initiatives to create more stable and prosperous conditions in these countries.
2. Expanding the capacity of U.S. embassies and consulates to efficiently process visa applications and provide consular services, ensuring lawful avenues for migration and travel.
3. Strengthening international partnerships and information-sharing to disrupt transnational criminal networks involved in human smuggling, drug trafficking, and other illicit activities that threaten border security.
4. Promoting regional cooperation on border management, including joint operations, intelligence sharing, and the harmonization of policies and procedures to enhance the overall security and integrity of the U.S. border.

The proposed funding for these State Department objectives is estimated at \$2.5 billion annually, to be allocated across these key priority areas. This investment will complement the enhanced border security measures and oversight mechanisms, creating a comprehensive and coordinated approach to border management that addresses both domestic and international dimensions.

## **Department of Defense Involvement and Military Support**

The proposed border policy also recognizes the critical role the Department of Defense and its research and development arm, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, can play in supporting the policy's objectives. The Department of Defense will be allocated \$1.8 billion annually to enhance border security through the following initiatives:

1. Leveraging advanced surveillance and reconnaissance technologies developed by DARPA to improve situational awareness and early detection capabilities along the border. This may include the deployment of autonomous drones,

satellite imagery analysis, and sensor networks to provide real-time intelligence on border activity.

2. Collaborating with DARPA to research and develop innovative border security solutions, such as non-lethal deterrence systems, enhanced physical barriers, and integrated command and control platforms to streamline border operations.
3. Providing training and technical assistance to state and local law enforcement agencies to integrate defense-grade equipment and tactics into their border security efforts, while ensuring strict adherence to Constitutional safeguards.
4. Activating National Guard and Reserve units to support border security operations during times of heightened activity or emergency response, drawing on the specialized skills and resources of the military.

This collaboration between the Department of Defense, DARPA, and border security agencies will strengthen the United States' ability to address evolving threats, adapt to emerging challenges, and maintain the integrity of its borders within the bounds of the Constitution and existing legal frameworks.

## **Department of Homeland Security Coordination and Integration**

The proposed border policy will also mandate the Department of Homeland Security to lead a comprehensive review and reorganization of its border security, immigration enforcement, and disaster response capabilities. This will involve the following initiatives:

The Department of Homeland Security will conduct a thorough assessment of its border security, immigration enforcement, and disaster response operations with the goal of enhancing coordination and integration across these critical functions. This assessment will identify opportunities to streamline processes, eliminate redundancies, and improve information-sharing and decision-making.

Based on the findings of this assessment, DHS will develop and implement a strategic plan to restructure its component agencies and field offices to better align their missions, resources, and operations. This may include the consolidation of certain functions, the establishment of cross-cutting teams and task forces, and the implementation of shared technology platforms and data systems.

DHS will also invest in comprehensive training and professional development programs for its personnel, with a focus on cultivating a culture of integrity, accountability, and respect for human rights. These training initiatives will cover topics such as implicit bias, de-escalation tactics, asylum processing procedures, and trauma-informed care, ensuring that border security and immigration enforcement activities are carried out in a manner that upholds the dignity and due process rights of all individuals.

The proposed funding for these DHS-led initiatives is estimated at \$1.2 billion annually, to be allocated towards the implementation of the strategic plan, technology upgrades, and workforce development programs.

The comprehensive border policy proposal outlined above represents a nonpartisan approach to securing the United States' borders, enhancing national security, and upholding the rule of law, while also addressing the humanitarian and diplomatic dimensions of border management. By aligning the efforts of the State Department, Department of Defense, and Department of Homeland Security, this proposal seeks to create a coordinated, efficient, and humane border security system that can adapt to the evolving challenges of the 21st century.

(Rosenblum, 2012) The report describes methods for estimating border security at the strategic and operational levels, drawing on multiple data sources to review the state of border security. (Terrorism: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Improving Responses, 2004) The newly created Department of Homeland Security faces the challenge of effectively joining border security functions and interior functions into an organization with centralized leadership and decentralized operations. (Park et al., 2004)

## **CBP and ICE Additional Budget Prioritization:**

The proposed border policy also includes additional dedicated funding for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement agencies, to be used for enhancing their personnel, equipment, and operational capabilities.

Specifically, the annual budget allocation for CBP will be increased by \$800 million, to be used for the following initiatives: hiring and training an additional 3,000 Border Patrol agents to strengthen staffing levels along the southern border, upgrading technological capabilities such as surveillance systems and data analytics tools to improve real-time border monitoring and intelligence-gathering, and expanding the use of non-lethal deterrence methods and specialized teams to manage high-risk enforcement situations.

Similarly, the annual budget for ICE will be increased by \$600 million to support the following priorities: recruiting and training an additional 2,000 deportation officers to expedite the removal of unauthorized immigrants, investing in modernized detention facilities that meet humane standards of care, and developing a comprehensive case management system to streamline adjudication and processing of immigration cases.

These targeted investments in CBP and ICE will enhance the operational capacity and effectiveness of the United States' key border security and immigration enforcement agencies, while also ensuring that their activities are carried out in a manner that upholds human rights and due process guarantees.

(Alden, 2017)

The proposed border policy also includes a significant investment in the Department of Homeland Security and its component agencies, including Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement. The funding allocation for DHS is estimated at \$4.5 billion annually, to be directed towards the following key initiatives: developing and implementing a strategic plan to restructure its component agencies and field offices to better align their missions, resources, and operations; investing in comprehensive training and professional development programs for its personnel, with a focus on cultivating a culture of integrity, accountability, and respect for human rights; and upgrading technology and data systems to enhance coordination, information-sharing, and decision-making across the agency.

## **Strategic Change in Tactics Needed to Meet Objectives**

(Alden, 2017) The evidence suggests that deterrence through enforcement, despite its successes to date in reducing illegal entry across the border, is producing diminishing returns, as arrivals at the border are increasingly made up of asylum seekers from Central America rather than traditional economic migrants from Mexico. The Border Patrol collects data on several different border enforcement outcomes, but none of these existing data are designed to measure unauthorized border flows or the degree to which the border is secured.

The proposed border policy represents a comprehensive and nonpartisan approach to enhancing U.S. border security, while upholding the nation's values and international obligations. By balancing enforcement measures with diplomatic engagement, technological innovation, and robust oversight mechanisms, this policy aims to create a more secure, efficient, and humane border management system that serves the interests of all Americans. (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017) (Terrorism: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Improving Responses, 2004)

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The proposed border policy outlines the following additional key objectives and associated metrics to measure their effective implementation:

### **Objective 1:** Enhance transparency and accountability of border security operations

- **Metrics:** Percentage of border security personnel equipped with functioning body-worn and dashboard cameras; number of documented incidents of improper conduct and resulting disciplinary actions; frequency and scope of camera footage audits and reviews.
- **Timeline:** All border security personnel to be equipped with cameras within 12 months. Quarterly audits and reports to the Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, as well as the House Homeland Security Committee.

### **Objective 2:** Address root causes of irregular migration through diplomatic engagement and foreign aid

- **Metrics:** Amount of foreign aid and technical assistance provided to source and transit countries; number of joint initiatives and partnerships established to promote economic and political stability.
- **Timeline:** Increase foreign aid budget by 25% within 24 months. Biannual updates to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and House Foreign Affairs Committee.

### **Objective 3:** Enhance the capacity of U.S. consular services to process visa applications

- **Metrics:** Average visa processing times; number of visa applications received and approved.
- **Timeline:** Reduce average visa processing times by 30% within 18 months. Quarterly reports to the Senate Judiciary Committee and House Judiciary Committee.

### **Objective 4:** Disrupt transnational criminal networks involved in human smuggling and drug trafficking

- **Metrics:** Number of successful interdictions and dismantled criminal operations; amount of illicit goods and funds seized.
- **Timeline:** Increase the number of successful criminal network disruptions by 50% within 24 months. Classified briefings to the Senate and House Intelligence Committees, due to the sensitive nature of the information.

The proposed border policy requires specialized secure communications facilities and clearances for the portions related to national security and intelligence-sharing with international partners. These sensitive elements will be coordinated through the appropriate Congressional committees with the necessary security protocols in place.

### **Veterans and Underutilized Resources**

Additionally, the proposed border policy includes provisions to leverage the unique skills and experiences of U.S. military veterans in border security operations. Specifically, the policy calls for the establishment of a Border Security Veteran Employment Initiative, which will provide priority hiring, training, and mentorship opportunities for qualified veterans to serve as Border Patrol agents, CBP officers, and in other critical border security roles.

The proposed border policy also includes funding to leverage underutilized resources within the United States, such as veterans and underemployed individuals, to bolster border security operations. By tapping into this historically underutilized talent pool, the policy aims to harness valuable skills and experiences that can complement the efforts of existing border security personnel.

One key initiative is to establish a voluntary Border Security Reserve Corps, which would allow veterans, law enforcement retirees, and other qualified individuals to contribute their expertise on a part-time or as-needed basis. This program would provide flexible staffing options, allowing the government to rapidly scale up border security operations during times of heightened activity or emergency response. Participants would receive specialized training and equipment, as well as competitive compensation, to ensure they are fully prepared to support border security missions.

Additionally, the policy includes funding to expand apprenticeship and job training programs targeted at underemployed individuals, equipping them with the skills necessary to serve in various border security roles, such as surveillance, logistics, and administrative support. By investing in these workforce development initiatives, the policy seeks to create new employment opportunities and provide pathways for marginalized communities to contribute to the security and prosperity of the nation's borders.

## Trade Unions and Community Engagement

The proposed border policy also includes funding to engage trade unions as collaborative problem-solvers in border security operations. Trade unions will be incorporated into various programs and initiatives to leverage their expertise and ensure the interests of workers are represented.

One key program is the establishment of a Border Security Workforce Advisory Council, which will include representatives from relevant trade unions. This council will provide regular input on workforce needs, operational challenges, and opportunities for improvement. Trade union leaders will help identify skill gaps, inform training curricula, and advocate for fair labor practices and worker protections.

The policy also allocates \$100 million annually to fund joint labor-management initiatives. This includes developing apprenticeship and skills training programs to prepare union members for border security roles, as well as supporting joint labor-management committees to enhance communication, resolve disputes, and promote continuous improvement. By empowering trade unions as active partners, the border policy aims to foster a collaborative, inclusive, and responsive approach to border security that benefits both workers and the public.

The proposed border policy recognizes the importance of fostering regional cooperation and leveraging existing partnerships, such as the California Border Health Collaborative, to address cross-border challenges in a holistic manner. Specifically, the policy includes funding to facilitate the expansion of the California Border Health Collaborative model to other border regions, with the goal of establishing a network of regional collaboratives that can share best practices, coordinate initiatives, and engage stakeholders on both sides of the border (Matthews et al., 2015).

The regional collaboratives will bring together government agencies, academic institutions, and non-governmental organizations to identify and address the unique healthcare, infrastructure, and economic needs of border communities. By promoting transparency, trust, and collaborative leadership, these regional initiatives can help align strategic goals and enable more effective cross-border cooperation (Matthews et al., 2015).

The proposed border policy also includes funding for diplomatic initiatives to strengthen international partnerships and facilitate the harmonization of border policies and procedures with neighboring countries. Specifically, the policy allocates \$200 million annually to support bilateral and multilateral dialogues, joint task forces, and the development of shared frameworks and protocols.

These diplomatic efforts will focus on aligning border security practices, enhancing information sharing, and coordinating emergency response protocols. The goal is to create a more seamless and efficient border management system that prioritizes the

safety and well-being of border communities, while also facilitating the secure movement of people and goods (Ssenkooba et al., 2021)(Merrill et al., 2017).

## **Educational Professionals and Community Engagement**

The proposed border policy also includes funding to engage educational professionals and community organizations in supporting border security initiatives.

One key program is the Border Community Outreach and Engagement Initiative, which will provide grants to local schools, universities, and community-based organizations to develop educational programs and public awareness campaigns. These efforts will focus on fostering cross-cultural understanding, promoting tolerance, and strengthening ties between border communities on both sides of the international divide.

Additionally, the policy includes funding for a Border Security Internship and Fellowship Program, which will offer educational and professional development opportunities for students and early-career professionals interested in pursuing careers in border security. By engaging with educational institutions and community organizations, the border policy aims to build a more informed and engaged citizenry, while also cultivating the next generation of border security professionals.

The proposed border policy includes \$100 million in annual funding for the Border Community Outreach and Engagement Initiative. The key objectives and funding allocations for the BCOEI are as follows:

1. Fostering cross-cultural understanding and promoting tolerance: \$40 million
  - Develop educational programs and public awareness campaigns in local schools, universities, and community organizations to build empathy, address stereotypes, and celebrate diversity.
  - Facilitate cultural exchange events and initiatives that bring together residents from both sides of the border.
2. Strengthening ties between border communities: \$30 million
  - Support the establishment of sister city/town partnerships and regular cross-border dialogues and exchanges.



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- Develop joint projects and initiatives that address shared challenges and leverage complementary resources.
3. Cultivating the next generation of border security professionals: \$30 million
- Offer internships, fellowships, and mentorship programs for students and early-career individuals interested in pursuing careers in border security.
  - Provide scholarships and educational assistance to encourage diverse representation in the border security workforce.

The proposed border policy includes \$30 million in annual funding for the Border Security Internship and Fellowship Program. The key objectives and funding allocations for the BSIFP are as follows:

1. Cultivating the next generation of border security professionals: \$20 million
- Offer 200 paid internships annually for undergraduate and graduate students to gain hands-on experience in border security operations, policy development, and community engagement.
  - Provide 50 fellowships per year for early-career professionals to pursue advanced training and research in border security, with a focus on innovative approaches and interdisciplinary collaboration.
  - Establish a mentorship program that pairs BSIFP participants with experienced border security and public service leaders to facilitate professional development and career guidance.
2. Promoting diversity and inclusion in the border security workforce: \$10 million
- Offer scholarships and educational assistance to encourage underrepresented groups, including women, racial and ethnic minorities, and first-generation college students, to pursue careers in border security.
  - Develop outreach and recruitment initiatives targeting Minority-Serving Institutions and community organizations to build a diverse pipeline of future border security professionals.

- Incorporate inclusive hiring and promotion practices in the placement of BSIFP participants within border security agencies and organizations.

## **Healthcare Professionals and Community Engagement**

The proposed border policy recognizes the importance of addressing the unique healthcare needs of border communities and strengthening cross-border healthcare cooperation.

To achieve this, the policy includes \$150 million in annual funding for the Border Health Initiative, which will focus on the following key areas:

Improving access to quality healthcare services in border regions, particularly for underserved and vulnerable populations, by providing grants to community health centers, mobile clinics, and telemedicine programs (Kohlby, 2011).

Enhancing disease surveillance and outbreak response capabilities at ports of entry and along the borders through the establishment of joint task forces, the development of shared protocols, and the deployment of advanced technologies.

Fostering cross-border collaboration and information-sharing among healthcare providers, public health agencies, and emergency response teams to coordinate the delivery of care and the management of public health emergencies.

Further, the policy allocates \$50 million annually for the Border Health Professional Development and Exchange Program, which will:

Offer scholarships, fellowships, and training opportunities to attract and retain healthcare professionals, including physicians, nurses, and public health specialists, to work in border communities.

Facilitate the exchange of best practices, knowledge, and expertise between healthcare providers and public health officials on both sides of the border to improve the quality and continuity of care.

These initiatives, grounded in the lessons learned from cross-border healthcare experiences (Ssengooba et al., 2021), aim to address the unique healthcare challenges faced by border communities and strengthen the resilience of the region's public health infrastructure.

## **Civic Associations and Community-Based Organizations**

To further promote community engagement and support for border security initiatives, the proposed policy includes funding for civic associations and community-based organizations. A key component of this effort is the establishment of the Border Community Partnership Program, which will provide grants to local organizations to develop and implement community-led projects that address the unique needs and concerns of border residents.

These projects may include initiatives to improve infrastructure, enhance social services, or promote cultural exchange and understanding. By empowering local stakeholders and leveraging their expertise and connections, the Border Community Partnership Program aims to foster a sense of ownership and investment in border security efforts, while also addressing the diverse needs of border communities.

The proposed border policy includes \$25 million in annual funding for the Border Community Partnership Program. This funding will support grants to local civic associations and community-based organizations to develop and implement projects that address the unique needs and concerns of border communities.

The key objectives of the BCPP funding include:

1. Improving community infrastructure and access to social services: Grants will be available for projects that enhance transportation, housing, healthcare, and other vital services in border regions.
2. Promoting cultural exchange and understanding: Funding will support initiatives that bring together residents on both sides of the border to share traditions, celebrate diversity, and foster cross-cultural connections.
3. Strengthening community engagement in border security: The BCPP will enable local organizations to develop public awareness campaigns, educational programs, and volunteer opportunities that encourage border residents to actively participate in and support border security efforts.
4. Facilitating local stakeholder input on border policy: The BCPP will provide a structured platform for civic associations and community groups to share their perspectives, concerns, and recommendations with policymakers and border security agencies.

By investing \$25 million annually in the BCPP, the proposed border policy aims to empower border communities, enhance their quality of life, and build a more inclusive and collaborative approach to border security management.

## **Strategic Communications, Social Media, and Mainstream Media Support**

The proposed border policy recognizes the critical role of strategic communications in effectively managing border security operations and engaging with the public. To this end, the policy includes robust funding and mechanisms to establish and maintain a comprehensive strategic communications framework.

One key component of this framework is the establishment of a Border Security Communications Center. The BSCC will serve as the primary hub for coordinating and disseminating information related to border security initiatives, operations, and emergencies. Staffed by communications professionals, the BSCC will be responsible for the following functions:

1. Ongoing situational awareness and information gathering: The BSCC will continuously monitor and analyze data from various government agencies, intelligence sources, and public inputs to maintain a comprehensive understanding of the border security landscape. This will include tracking emerging threats, operational challenges, and public sentiments.
2. Coordinated messaging and public engagement: The BSCC will develop and implement strategic communication plans to proactively engage with the public, media, and key stakeholders. This will involve crafting consistent messaging, managing media relations, and utilizing a range of communication channels, including social media, press conferences, and public events.
3. Risk management and crisis communication: The BSCC will be responsible for developing and regularly updating crisis communication protocols to ensure timely and effective response to emergency situations along the border. This will include coordinating with relevant government agencies, providing clear and transparent messaging to the public, and managing potential reputational risks.
4. Monitoring and evaluation: The BSCC will continuously monitor the effectiveness of its strategic communications efforts, collecting feedback from stakeholders and analyzing relevant metrics. This data will inform the ongoing refinement and adaptation of communication strategies to better meet the evolving needs of border security management and public engagement.

To ensure the BSCC's success, the proposed border policy allocates \$50 million annually for its operations and the development of supporting infrastructure, such as

secure communication channels, data analytics tools, and public outreach platforms. Additionally, the policy mandates the recruitment and training of specialized personnel, drawing from a diverse pool of communication professionals, public relations experts, and data analysts, as outlined in the Project Management Body of Knowledge guidelines for effective project management and team building.

By investing in strategic communications, the proposed border policy aims to enhance transparency, build public trust, and foster a collaborative relationship between border security agencies and the communities they serve.

To ensure the BSCC's success, the proposed border policy allocates \$75 million annually for its operations and the development of supporting infrastructure. This funding will be used to achieve the following specific, measurable objectives:

1. Establish a state-of-the-art communications center with secure, redundant data and information sharing capabilities: \$25 million
  - Deploy advanced communication technologies, including secure video conferencing, cloud-based data management systems, and real-time information exchange platforms.
  - Implement robust cybersecurity measures to protect sensitive data and safeguard against cyber threats.
2. Recruit and train a specialized team of 100 communications professionals, public relations experts, and data analysts: \$30 million
  - Attract top talent with competitive salaries and professional development opportunities.
  - Provide comprehensive training in strategic communications, crisis management, media relations, and data-driven decision making.
3. Develop and implement a comprehensive strategic communications plan: \$20 million

- Conduct regular public opinion research and stakeholder engagement to understand evolving needs and concerns.
- Establish a robust social media presence and digital outreach program to enhance public awareness and engagement.
- Organize town halls, workshops, and other community events to facilitate direct dialogue between border agencies and local residents.

By investing \$75 million annually in the BSCC, the proposed border policy aims to build a highly capable, responsive, and adaptable strategic communications framework that supports the overall border security efforts and fosters strong partnerships with border communities and the general public.

### **International Relations Considerations and Binational Cooperation**

In accordance with U.S. and international laws and treaties, the proposed border policy will strive to coordinate border security activities while upholding national sovereignty and constitutional responsibilities to U.S. citizens. The policy recognizes that effective border management requires balancing international cooperation with the preservation of U.S. authority over its borders.

To this end, the policy includes mechanisms to engage in bilateral and multilateral dialogues with neighboring countries, with the goal of harmonizing border policies, procedures, and information-sharing protocols. However, these diplomatic initiatives will be structured in a way that allows the U.S. to maintain decision-making authority over border security operations and the implementation of policies within its own territory.

Specifically, the policy stipulates that any international agreements or frameworks developed through these diplomatic efforts must be fully aligned with U.S. laws, regulations, and constitutional principles. This includes ensuring that the U.S. retains the right to unilaterally enact and enforce border security measures, as well as the authority to deny or restrict the movement of individuals or goods that pose a threat to national security or public safety.

Furthermore, the policy mandates the establishment of robust oversight and accountability mechanisms to monitor the implementation of international cooperation initiatives. This will include regular reporting to Congress, as well as the empowerment of U.S. government agencies to audit and validate the adherence of cross-border activities to U.S. legal and constitutional requirements.

By striking this balance between international coordination and the preservation of national sovereignty, the proposed border policy aims to enhance the efficiency and

effectiveness of border management while upholding the U.S. government's fundamental duty to protect the security and well-being of its citizens.

To effectively implement the proposed border policy, a comprehensive funding strategy is essential. The policy recommends a multi-pronged approach to securing the necessary resources, drawing from a combination of federal appropriations, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing mechanisms.

## **Funding Strategies and Fiscal Management Controls**

To effectively implement the proposed border policy, a comprehensive funding strategy is essential. The policy recommends a multi-pronged approach to securing the necessary resources, drawing from a combination of federal appropriations, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing mechanisms.

One key element of this funding strategy is the establishment of a Border Security Trust Fund, which will serve as a dedicated revenue stream for border security initiatives. This fund will be capitalized through a combination of:

- Increased customs and border crossing fees, which will be levied on individuals and commercial entities utilizing U.S. ports of entry
- Public-private partnership agreements, where private sector stakeholders contribute funding in exchange for participation in the development and operation of border infrastructure and technology
- Innovative financing instruments, such as border security impact bonds, which will allow the government to leverage private investment for pre-defined border security outcomes
- Targeted budget allocations from federal appropriations, ensuring a stable and reliable source of funding for the policy's implementation

By diversifying the funding sources and establishing a dedicated trust fund, the proposed border policy aims to ensure a sustainable and flexible financing model that can adapt to evolving border security needs and economic conditions. This comprehensive approach to funding will enable the comprehensive implementation of the policy's strategic initiatives, including the establishment of the Border Security Communications Center, the enhancement of technology and infrastructure, and the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination.

To effectively fund the proposed border policy, the establishment of a Border Security Trust Fund is a critical element. The BSTF will serve as a dedicated revenue stream, with the goal of raising \$500 million annually to support the policy's strategic initiatives.

The BSTF will be capitalized through the following sources:

1. **Increased Customs and Border Crossing Fees:** The policy will implement a 10% increase in fees for individuals and commercial entities utilizing U.S. ports of entry, which is expected to generate \$200 million per year.
2. **Public-Private Partnerships:** The policy will establish agreements with private sector stakeholders, such as logistics companies and technology providers, to contribute \$150 million annually in exchange for participation in the development and operation of border infrastructure and systems.
3. **Border Security Impact Bonds:** The policy will leverage innovative financing instruments, like border security impact bonds, to raise an additional \$100 million per year. These bonds will allow the government to tap into private investment for pre-defined border security outcomes, such as reduced wait times at ports of entry or enhanced detection of illicit goods.
4. **Federal Appropriations:** The policy will secure \$50 million in annual budget allocations from the U.S. government to provide a stable and reliable source of funding for the BSTF.

By diversifying the funding sources and setting clear, measurable objectives for the BSTF, the proposed border policy aims to ensure a sustainable and flexible financing model that can adapt to evolving border security needs and economic conditions. The funds generated through the BSTF will be used to support the comprehensive implementation of the policy's strategic initiatives, including the establishment of the Border Security Communications Center, the enhancement of technology and infrastructure, and the strengthening of international cooperation and coordination.

### **Fiscal Accountability and Oversight Mechanisms**

To ensure the effective and responsible use of the BSTF and other border security resources, the proposed policy includes robust oversight and accountability measures: It mandates regular audits and comprehensive financial reporting requirements for the BSTF, with the U.S. Government Accountability Office empowered to conduct independent reviews of the fund's operations and expenditures. Additionally, the policy requires the Department of Homeland Security to submit an annual border security budget and performance report to Congress, detailing the specific allocation of funds and the measurable outcomes achieved. (Rosenblum, 2012) These measures are



designed to promote transparency, accountability, and the efficient utilization of taxpayer resources in the implementation of the border security policy.

The US Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve will be responsible for the overall management and oversight of the Border Security Trust Fund. The Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Federal Reserve Chair, will be tasked with establishing the necessary governance structures, investment guidelines, and reporting mechanisms to ensure the efficient and transparent use of the BSTF resources.

The U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve play a critical role in supporting the objectives of the proposed border policy. By law and under the U.S. Constitution, these federal agencies have the authority and responsibility to contribute to the effective implementation of the policy.

The U.S. Treasury Department, through its various sub-departments, can provide essential financial and economic expertise to the border policy. The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, for instance, can help develop and oversee the implementation of the proposed Border Security Trust Fund, ensuring its financial integrity and responsible management. The Internal Revenue Service can assist in the collection and allocation of increased customs and border crossing fees, which will serve as a dedicated revenue stream for border security initiatives.

Furthermore, the Federal Reserve, as the central banking system of the United States, can play a key role in supporting the policy's funding mechanisms. The Federal Reserve's monetary policy tools, such as setting interest rates and managing the money supply, can help create a favorable economic environment for the successful implementation of public-private partnerships and innovative financing instruments, like border security impact bonds.

By leveraging the financial and economic resources of the U.S. Treasury Department and the Federal Reserve, the proposed border policy can ensure a sustainable and flexible funding model that can adapt to evolving border security needs and economic conditions, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of the policy's implementation.

## **State and Local Governments**

The proposed border policy recognizes the critical role of state and local governments in the effective implementation of border security initiatives.

In addition to the federal agencies and resources outlined, the implementation of the proposed border policy will also require the active involvement and coordination of state and local governments, as well as their respective agencies and personnel.

State and local governments play a crucial role in supporting the objectives of the border policy. They can contribute to its effective implementation through the following measures:

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1. **Intergovernmental Cooperation:** State and local authorities, such as law enforcement, emergency management, and transportation agencies, can work closely with federal counterparts to ensure a unified and coordinated approach to border security and management. This collaboration can include the sharing of intelligence, the joint deployment of resources, and the harmonization of operational procedures.
2. **Border Infrastructure and Technology:** State and local governments can contribute to the enhancement of border infrastructure and technology by providing funding, resources, and technical expertise. This can include the development and maintenance of roads, bridges, and other transportation networks that facilitate legitimate cross-border movements, as well as the deployment of state-of-the-art surveillance and monitoring systems.
3. **Community Engagement and Outreach:** State and local agencies can engage with border communities, businesses, and stakeholders to foster trust, address local concerns, and promote the policy's objectives. This can involve public awareness campaigns, community-based programs, and the incorporation of local knowledge and perspectives into the policy's implementation.
4. **Workforce Development:** State and local governments can support the training and recruitment of personnel, such as law enforcement officers, customs agents, and transportation workers, to ensure the availability of a skilled and dedicated workforce capable of carrying out the border policy's operational requirements.

By leveraging the capabilities and resources of state and local governments, the proposed border policy can benefit from a more comprehensive and coordinated approach, ultimately enhancing the overall effectiveness of its implementation and ensuring that the needs and concerns of border communities are effectively addressed.

To support state, local, and tribal governments in effectively implementing the border policy, the proposed legislation will include pass-through funding mechanisms that provide financial resources and technical assistance. These funding mechanisms will be subject to clear spending limits, oversight, and reporting requirements to ensure accountability and responsible use of public funds.

The proposed Border Security Trust Fund will serve as the primary funding vehicle, with dedicated revenue streams from increased customs and border crossing fees. This trust fund will allocate resources to state, local, and tribal governments through grant programs and cooperative agreements. Spending limits will be established to ensure

that the funds are utilized solely for authorized border security activities, such as infrastructure improvements, technology upgrades, and personnel training.

Oversight and monitoring of the pass-through funding will be provided by the U.S. Treasury Department, which will have the authority to review expenditures, conduct audits, and enforce compliance with program requirements. State, local, and tribal governments receiving funds will be required to submit periodic reports detailing the use of the resources, performance metrics, and any challenges encountered. These reports will be made publicly available to promote transparency and allow for independent review by oversight bodies, such as the Government Accountability Office and congressional committees.

The proposed legislation will also incorporate robust audit mechanisms to ensure the proper management and utilization of the pass-through funds. These audits will be conducted by the Treasury Department's Office of the Inspector General, as well as independent third-party auditors, to verify the accuracy of financial reporting, the effectiveness of internal controls, and the overall compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

By establishing these pass-through funding mechanisms with clear spending limits, oversight, reporting, and audit requirements, the proposed border policy will empower state, local, and tribal governments to play a crucial role in enhancing border security, while ensuring the responsible and transparent use of public resources.

## **Key Stakeholders and Their Needs**

The proposed border policy must address the needs and concerns of various stakeholder groups, including border communities, businesses, civil liberties advocates, and immigrant rights organizations. It is essential to understand the underlying needs and perspectives of these stakeholders to develop a collaborative and inclusive approach. The policy must strike a balance between security, economic prosperity, and the protection of civil liberties and human rights.

### **Border Communities:**

Border communities have a vital interest in the effective and humane implementation of border policy. Their needs include safety, economic stability, and the preservation of their cultural and social fabric. The policy must incorporate measures to engage these communities, address their concerns, and ensure that border security operations do not unduly disrupt their daily lives.

Residents and local authorities in border regions have a direct stake in the policy's implementation. They seek a secure and efficient border that facilitates legitimate cross-border movements, supports local economies, and preserves the social and cultural fabric of their communities. Key needs include: transparency and meaningful engagement in the policy's development and implementation, accountability and

oversight mechanisms for federal enforcement operations, and the preservation of civil liberties and human rights within their communities.

**Border Businesses:**

Businesses operating in border regions, such as those in the transportation, tourism, and trade sectors, are highly dependent on the efficient and secure flow of goods and people across the border. Their key needs include: predictable and streamlined border crossing procedures, reliable infrastructure and technology, and policies that support economic growth and competitiveness.

**Civil Liberties Advocates:**

Organizations advocating for civil liberties and human rights are concerned with protecting the constitutional rights and dignity of individuals, including migrants and border residents. Their key needs include: safeguards against unlawful searches, seizures, and detentions, as well as the incorporation of due process and oversight mechanisms to prevent abuses.

**Immigrant Rights Organizations:**

These organizations advocate for the fair and humane treatment of immigrants, regardless of their legal status. Their key needs include: ensuring access to asylum and other legal immigration processes, protecting the rights and wellbeing of migrant families, and preventing the criminalization of undocumented individuals.

(Matthews et al., 2015) (Heyman, 2013) (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023) (Vajiram et al., 2023)

**Businesses:**

Businesses, particularly those with cross-border operations, have a significant interest in the policy's impact on trade, tourism, and the free flow of goods and services. Their key needs include: predictable and efficient border crossing procedures, reliable infrastructure and technology, and policies that promote economic growth and competitiveness.

Businesses operating in border regions also have a significant stake in the border policy. Their needs include the efficient movement of goods and services, the facilitation of legitimate cross-border trade, and the maintenance of a stable and predictable regulatory environment. The policy must balance security requirements with the needs of commercial activities to promote economic growth and competitiveness.

**Civil Liberties and Immigrant Rights Organizations:**

These stakeholders are concerned with the protection of individual rights, privacy, and the fair treatment of immigrants. Their key needs include: safeguards against unlawful searches and detentions, access to due process, and the prevention of the criminalization of undocumented individuals.

The proposed border policy must address the diverse needs of these stakeholder groups to develop a collaborative and inclusive approach that balances security, economic prosperity, and the protection of civil liberties and human rights.

(Sa'ad & Huda, 2023) (Vajiram et al., 2023)

Civil liberties and immigrant rights organizations play a crucial role in ensuring that the border policy respects fundamental human rights and upholds the principles of due process and non-discrimination. Their input and engagement are essential in developing a policy that adequately addresses these concerns.

By considering the diverse needs and perspectives of these stakeholder groups, the proposed border policy can strive to strike a balance between national security, economic prosperity, and the protection of civil liberties and human rights. (Heyman, 2013) (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023) (Andreas, 2006)

(Broadband Policies for Latin America and the Caribbean: A Digital Economy Toolkit, 2016)

By engaging with these diverse stakeholders and understanding their needs, the proposed border policy can strike a balanced approach that enhances security, supports economic prosperity, and safeguards civil liberties and human rights.

Civil liberties advocates and immigrant rights organizations are key stakeholders whose concerns must be addressed. Their needs include the protection of individual rights, the upholding of human dignity, and the fair and equitable treatment of all individuals regardless of immigration status. The policy must incorporate safeguards to prevent the infringement of civil liberties and ensure that border enforcement measures are consistent with the United States' domestic and international human rights obligations.

### **Indigenous Border Communities:**

The border region is home to many indigenous communities whose cultural heritage and way of life have deep historical roots. The proposed border policy must recognize and protect the rights and interests of these indigenous populations. Key needs include:

- Safeguarding sacred sites, burial grounds, and other culturally significant locations from disruption or desecration due to border enforcement activities.
- Ensuring the unimpeded exercise of traditional subsistence practices, such as fishing, hunting, and gathering, that are central to indigenous livelihoods and identities.

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- Respecting the autonomy and self-governance of indigenous communities, including their ability to maintain their own systems of leadership, dispute resolution, and resource management.
- Providing meaningful consultation and the incorporation of indigenous knowledge and perspectives in the design and implementation of border policies and programs.
- Protecting the linguistic and cultural diversity of indigenous communities along the border region.

By prioritizing the preservation of indigenous cultural heritage and the rights of border-dwelling indigenous populations, the proposed border policy can demonstrate a genuine commitment to inclusivity, environmental stewardship, and the recognition of the unique status of these communities. This will not only uphold the United States' obligations under international human rights law but also enrich the cultural tapestry of the border region and foster a sense of mutual understanding and respect.

# Proposal for a Comprehensive U.S. Border Policy

## Introduction:

The United States' border policy is a complex and multifaceted issue that requires a balanced approach to address the diverse needs and concerns of various stakeholders. This proposal outlines a comprehensive border policy that aims to enhance national security, promote economic prosperity, and safeguard civil liberties and human rights.

## Guiding Principles:

The proposed border policy is guided by the following principles:

**Respect for human rights and dignity:** The policy must uphold the fundamental human rights of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status, and ensure the fair and equitable treatment of all those who interact with the border system. (Heyman, 2013) (Matthews et al., 2015)

**Balancing security and economic interests:** The policy must strike a balance between the need for robust border security and the facilitation of legitimate cross-border trade, travel, and economic activities. (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017) (Andreas, 2006)

**Collaboration and stakeholder engagement:** The policy development and implementation process must involve meaningful consultation and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, civil society organizations, and indigenous groups. (Heyman, 2013) (Matthews et al., 2015)

### **Funding Requirements:**

To effectively implement the proposed border policy, the following funding requirements must be considered:

#### **Border Security and Enforcement:**

Funding is needed to enhance and maintain the physical infrastructure and technological capabilities at the border, including the modernization and upkeep of border fencing, surveillance systems, and ports of entry.

Funding is also required for the training, equipping, and deployment of a sufficient number of border security personnel, with a focus on ensuring their adherence to human rights standards and the appropriate use of force.

#### **Facilitation of Legitimate Cross-Border Activities:**

Funding is necessary to streamline and improve the efficiency of border crossing processes, including the expansion and enhancement of ports of entry, the deployment of advanced customs and immigration processing systems, and the provision of adequate staffing and resources to facilitate the flow of goods and people.

#### **Humanitarian Assistance and Refugee Protection:**

Funding is required to establish robust systems for the identification, screening, and processing of asylum seekers and refugees, including the provision of appropriate shelter, medical care, and legal assistance.

Funding is also needed to support the development and implementation of programs that address the root causes of migration and provide assistance to communities in the border region, particularly vulnerable populations such as indigenous groups and displaced persons.

#### **Stakeholder Engagement and Community Development:**

Funding is necessary to facilitate ongoing consultation and collaboration with a wide range of stakeholders, including local communities, businesses, civil society organizations, and indigenous groups, to ensure that their concerns and perspectives are effectively integrated into the development and implementation of border policies.

Funding is also required to support community-based initiatives that promote economic development, social cohesion, and environmental sustainability in the border region.

## **Conclusion:**

The proposed border policy framework outlined in this document is designed to enhance national security, promote economic prosperity, and safeguard civil liberties and human rights. By allocating the necessary funding to support the various components of this policy, the United States can develop a comprehensive and balanced approach to border management that addresses the diverse needs and concerns of all stakeholders. (Alden, 2017) (Orelle et al., 2021) (Vajiram et al., 2023) (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023)

## **Border Policy Reach and Non-localized Effects**

The impact of border policy extends far beyond the states and communities that directly border other countries. The effects of border security, trade, and immigration policies can be felt across the nation.

Many industries and businesses throughout the United States rely on the efficient flow of goods, services, and labor across borders. Disruptions to cross-border travel and trade can ripple through supply chains, impact consumer prices, and hamper economic growth in regions far from the actual border. For example, agricultural producers in the Midwest may depend on imported fertilizers or seasonal migrant workers to maintain their operations, while manufacturers in the Northeast may rely on timely delivery of components from factories in Mexico.

Additionally, the humanitarian consequences of border policies, such as the separation of families or the denial of asylum claims, can reverberate through immigrant communities nationwide. Civil rights organizations, faith-based groups, and advocacy networks that span the country may mobilize to address the human impacts of border enforcement.

By considering the nationwide implications of border policy, policymakers can develop more comprehensive and effective solutions that balance security, economic, and humanitarian concerns across all regions of the United States. A holistic approach that accounts for the diverse stakeholders and far-reaching effects of border management is essential for crafting durable and equitable policies.

## **Policy Recommendations**

To address the diverse needs and concerns of stakeholders, the proposed border policy should include the following key elements: The policy must prioritize the preservation of human life and dignity, ensuring that border enforcement operations do not result in unnecessary loss of life or the cruel and inhumane treatment of migrants and border residents.



The policy should incorporate robust mechanisms for transparency, public accountability, and the independent oversight of border security agencies. This includes measures such as regular reporting on border enforcement activities, the establishment of civilian review boards, and the empowerment of civil society organizations to monitor compliance with human rights standards.

The policy should also commit to the protection of civil liberties and the fundamental rights of all individuals, regardless of immigration status. This includes safeguards against warrantless searches, detentions, and the use of excessive force, as well as the provision of due process and access to legal representation for those facing deportation proceedings.

To support the economic interests of border communities and businesses, the policy should prioritize the facilitation of legitimate cross-border trade, travel, and the movement of goods and services. This can be achieved through the implementation of efficient and streamlined border crossing procedures, the use of advanced technology to expedite the flow of commerce, and the establishment of robust public-private partnerships to address infrastructure and logistical challenges.

The policy should also recognize the unique cultural heritage and rights of indigenous border communities, ensuring that their traditional practices, sacred sites, and self-governance structures are protected and respected.

By incorporating these key elements, the proposed border policy can strike a balance between national security, economic prosperity, and the protection of civil liberties and human rights.

### **Global Climate and Environmental Concerns:**

The proposed border policy must also consider the potential environmental and climate-related impacts of border infrastructure and enforcement activities. Constructing physical barriers, deploying surveillance technologies, and increasing border operations can have far-reaching consequences on the delicate ecosystems and fragile habitats found along the border region.

Key environmental considerations include:

- Minimizing the disruption and degradation of sensitive wildlife corridors, protected areas, and critical habitats that are home to numerous endangered and threatened species.
- Mitigating the carbon footprint and greenhouse gas emissions associated with border infrastructure development and the increased energy demands of border security operations.

- Preserving the integrity of watersheds, aquifers, and other vital water resources that are essential for the wellbeing of border communities and the surrounding environment.
- Ensuring the responsible management of waste and hazardous materials generated by border facilities and activities to prevent contamination and protect public health.
- Promoting the use of sustainable, environmentally-friendly technologies and construction methods in the development of border infrastructure.

To address these environmental concerns, the proposed border policy should allocate \$87 million for the implementation of comprehensive environmental protection measures. This funding would support the creation of an environmental impact assessment framework, the establishment of ecological restoration programs, and the adoption of best practices to minimize the carbon footprint and resource consumption of border operations.

By prioritizing environmental sustainability and climate resilience, the proposed border policy can demonstrate a holistic approach that safeguards the delicate ecosystems and natural resources of the border region for present and future generations.

## **National Health and Biosecurity Concerns**

The proposed border policy must also address pressing national health and biosecurity concerns. The free movement of people and goods across borders can potentially introduce infectious diseases, hazardous materials, and other biological threats that may pose risks to public health and national security. To mitigate these risks, the policy should incorporate the following elements:

### **Objectives:**

- Enhance disease surveillance and early warning systems at ports of entry to rapidly identify and respond to disease outbreaks or the introduction of novel pathogens.
- Strengthen collaboration with international health organizations and partner countries to share information, coordinate response efforts, and uphold global health security standards.

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- Implement rigorous screening, testing, and quarantine protocols for travelers and cargo to prevent the transnational spread of communicable diseases.
- Ensure the secure and regulated transport of hazardous materials, biological agents, and other potentially dangerous substances across the border.

### Responsibilities:

- Comply with the International Health Regulations and other relevant international frameworks that govern the management of public health emergencies of international concern.
- Adhere to ethical principles of disease control, such as proportionality, non-discrimination, and the protection of individual rights, as outlined in the Siracusa Principles and the Sphere Standards.
- Coordinate with domestic and international public health authorities to develop and regularly update evidence-based guidelines and protocols for border health security.
- Allocate sufficient resources and personnel to effectively implement border health and biosecurity measures, including the procurement of necessary medical and laboratory equipment.

By addressing national health and biosecurity concerns within the broader border policy framework, the United States can strengthen its resilience against transnational biological threats, uphold its ethical and legal obligations, and contribute to the enhancement of global health security.

## **Responsible Entities for Public Health and Border Policy Initiatives**

The proposed border policy must involve close collaboration between various government agencies and public health authorities to ensure the effective implementation of public health and biosecurity measures at the border. The key entities responsible for this coordination include:

- **The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention:** The CDC will play a central role in developing evidence-based guidelines and protocols for disease surveillance, screening, and outbreak response at ports of entry. The CDC will work closely

with border agencies to promptly identify and mitigate the introduction of communicable diseases and other public health threats.

- The Department of Homeland Security: DHS, which oversees border security operations, will be responsible for implementing the CDC's public health directives and integrating them into border management processes. DHS personnel will conduct screening, testing, and quarantine procedures for travelers and cargo, and coordinate with public health authorities in the event of a suspected disease outbreak.
- The Department of Health and Human Services: HHS, through its various agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration and the Assistant Secretary for Preparedness and Response, will provide technical expertise, resources, and regulatory oversight to ensure the safe and secure handling of hazardous materials, biological agents, and other substances that may pose health and biosecurity risks at the border.
- State and Local Health Departments: State and local health authorities will work in partnership with federal agencies to enhance disease surveillance, conduct contact tracing, and implement public health interventions within border communities. This collaboration will facilitate a coordinated, multi-layered approach to protecting public health and the wellbeing of border residents.

By establishing clear roles, responsibilities, and communication protocols among these key entities, the proposed border policy can effectively integrate public health considerations into border management, ultimately strengthening the nation's preparedness and resilience against transnational health threats.

## **The Role of The USDA and Environmental Protection in Border Policy**

In addition to addressing public health and biosecurity concerns, the proposed border policy must also consider the critical role of the United States Department of Agriculture and environmental protection measures in safeguarding the border region's ecological integrity.

The USDA, through its various agencies such as the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service and the Agricultural Research Service, will be responsible for the following:

Implementing strict phytosanitary and zoonosanitary controls to prevent the introduction and spread of invasive species, plant and animal pests, and diseases that could threaten the region's agricultural and natural resources. Conducting comprehensive inspections and surveillance of all agricultural commodities, livestock, and other biological materials entering the country to ensure compliance with domestic and

international regulations, thereby safeguarding the region's ecological and agricultural systems from potential threats.

Collaborating with the Environmental Protection Agency to monitor and mitigate the environmental impact of border infrastructure, including the effects on water quality, air pollution, and wildlife habitats.

Promoting sustainable land management practices and the conservation of sensitive ecosystems within the border region, in alignment with the principles of environmental justice and the preservation of biodiversity.

By integrating USDA and EPA initiatives into the broader border policy framework, the United States can ensure that the protection of public health, biosecurity, and environmental sustainability are all prioritized in the management of its borders.

To ensure the effective integration of USDA and EPA initiatives into the broader border policy framework, the proposed legislation will call for the creation of a USDA/EPA Joint Task Force. This task force will be responsible for coordinating the various responsibilities and activities of the two agencies in protecting the ecological integrity of the border region.

The USDA/EPA Joint Task Force will be led by a team of senior-level officials from both agencies, who will be tasked with developing and implementing a comprehensive, collaborative approach to border management. The leadership of the task force will be defined by the following principles:

- **Shared Decision-Making:** The co-chairs of the task force, representing the USDA and EPA, will work together to set the strategic direction, allocate resources, and oversee the execution of all border-related initiatives. This collaborative leadership model will ensure that the priorities and expertise of both agencies are equally reflected in the policy decisions.
- **Transparent Communication:** The task force will establish clear and transparent communication protocols, both internally and with other government entities, to facilitate the timely exchange of information, data, and best practices. This will enable the task force to respond quickly and effectively to emerging threats or challenges at the border.
- **Adaptive Management:** The task force will adopt a flexible, adaptive management approach, continuously monitoring the performance of border policies and programs, and making adjustments as needed to address evolving environmental, agricultural, and biosecurity concerns. This will ensure that the task force's strategies remain responsive to the dynamic realities of the border region.

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- **Stakeholder Engagement:** The task force will actively engage with a diverse range of stakeholders, including local communities, environmental organizations, and industry representatives, to gather input, address concerns, and build trust in the implementation of border policies. This collaborative approach will enhance the legitimacy and effectiveness of the task force's efforts.

By establishing the USDA/EPA Joint Task Force, (a.k.a, "UEJTF"), and defining its leadership principles, the proposed border policy will ensure that the protection of the environment, agricultural systems, and natural resources are fully integrated into the nation's border management strategies, contributing to the long-term sustainability and resilience of the border region.

To ensure the effective implementation of the USDA/EPA Joint Task Force, the proposed border policy will allocate an annual budget of \$150 million. This funding will support the following specific, measurable objectives:

1. Establish a comprehensive biosecurity and surveillance program: \$50 million
  - Conduct regular inspections and screenings of all agricultural commodities, livestock, and biological materials entering the country
  - Develop early warning systems and response protocols to rapidly detect and mitigate the introduction of invasive species, plant/animal pests, and diseases
2. Implement sustainable land management and environmental protection initiatives: \$60 million
  - Restore and conserve sensitive ecosystems within the border region
  - Promote the use of sustainable agricultural practices and reduce the environmental impact of border infrastructure
3. Enhance inter-agency coordination and stakeholder engagement: \$40 million
  - Facilitate regular meetings and joint planning sessions between USDA and EPA leadership
  - Organize public forums, town halls, and outreach programs to gather input from local communities, environmental groups, and industry partners

By allocating these resources and focusing on these key objectives, the UEJTF will be able to effectively integrate environmental protection, biosecurity, and sustainability considerations into the nation's comprehensive border management strategy.

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To ensure the effective implementation of the USDA/EPA Joint Task Force, the proposed border policy will allocate an annual budget of \$150 million. This funding will be generated through a combination of federal appropriations, as well as cost-sharing agreements with state and local governments, and potential public-private partnerships.

The federal appropriations will account for the majority of the UEJTF's budget, with Congress allocating the necessary funds through the annual budgeting process. This will ensure a stable and predictable source of funding to support the task force's long-term operations and initiatives.

To supplement the federal funding, the proposed border policy will also encourage state and local governments to contribute to the UEJTF's budget. This cost-sharing arrangement will leverage the resources and expertise of state and municipal agencies, further enhancing the task force's capacity to address regional environmental and biosecurity concerns.

Additionally, the UEJTF will explore opportunities for public-private partnerships, where businesses and industry stakeholders can provide financial or in-kind contributions to support the task force's activities. These partnerships will not only diversify the UEJTF's funding sources but also foster greater collaboration and alignment between the public and private sectors in upholding the nation's border management strategies.

By employing this multi-pronged approach to fund generation, the proposed border policy will ensure that the USDA/EPA Joint Task Force has the necessary resources to effectively integrate environmental protection, biosecurity, and sustainability considerations into the nation's comprehensive border management strategy.

*To ensure the transparency and accountability of the USDA/EPA Joint Task Force, the proposed border policy will establish a robust reporting and audit structure. This will include the following key elements:*

**Regular Progress Reporting:** The UEJTF will be required to submit quarterly progress reports to the relevant congressional committees, detailing its activities, expenditures, and performance metrics. These reports will provide lawmakers with up-to-date information on the task force's operations and enable them to conduct oversight and make informed decisions about future funding and policy adjustments.

**Independent Audits:** The Government Accountability Office will be tasked with conducting annual audits of the UEJTF's financial records, procurement processes, and program outcomes. These independent audits will help to verify the task force's compliance with applicable laws and regulations, as well as identify any areas for improvement or potential misuse of funds.

**Public Transparency:** The UEJTF will maintain a publicly accessible, online portal that provides real-time information on its activities, budget, and performance data. This level of transparency will allow the general public, as well as stakeholder groups, to monitor

## A Balanced Approach to US Border Policy 2024

the task force's operations and hold it accountable for the effective implementation of the border policy.

By establishing this comprehensive reporting and audit structure, the proposed border policy will ensure that the USDA/EPA Joint Task Force operates with the highest levels of integrity, efficiency, and public trust, while delivering on its critical mission to protect the environment, agricultural systems, and natural resources at the nation's borders.



## **FAA Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The Department of Homeland Security faces the challenge of effectively coordinating border security functions and interior functions into a centralized organization with decentralized operations. The Federal Aviation Administration can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in aviation security, surveillance, and air traffic management.

The FAA can contribute to the border policy in the following ways: The FAA can provide advanced aerial surveillance capabilities, including the use of drones and other unmanned aerial vehicles, to monitor and detect unauthorized border crossings and other illicit activities. The FAA can also assist in the integration of new technologies, such as biometric identification systems and automated border control gates, into the border inspection process to enhance efficiency and security. (Lowry et al., 1951)

Additionally, the FAA can utilize its air traffic management expertise to coordinate the movement of personnel, vehicles, and equipment along the border, ensuring the effective deployment of resources and the rapid response to emerging threats. (Terrorism: Reducing Vulnerabilities and Improving Responses, 2004)

By collaborating with the Department of Homeland Security, the FAA can leverage its unique capabilities to enhance the overall effectiveness of the nation's border management strategy, while also addressing the challenge of joining border security and interior functions into a cohesive and coordinated system.

## **FCC's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The Federal Communications Commission can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in telecommunications, spectrum management, and critical infrastructure protection.

The FCC can contribute to the border policy in the following ways: The FCC can work with the DHS to ensure the availability and reliability of secure, interoperable communications systems along the border. This includes the allocation of dedicated spectrum for border security operations, the deployment of robust and redundant telecommunications infrastructure, and the development of unified communication protocols to facilitate seamless information sharing and coordination between federal, state, and local agencies.

Additionally, the FCC can assist in the protection of critical communications infrastructure, such as cell towers, fiber optic cables, and satellite uplink stations, located near the border. By working with the DHS and private sector partners, the FCC can help to harden these assets against physical and cyber threats, ensuring the uninterrupted flow of vital information and communication services essential for effective border management. (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023)

Furthermore, the FCC can leverage its expertise in spectrum management to support the integration of advanced technologies, such as sensor networks, unmanned aerial vehicles, and autonomous vehicles, into the border security infrastructure.

By actively collaborating with the Department of Homeland Security, the Federal Communications Commission can play a crucial role in enhancing the overall effectiveness and resilience of the nation's border management strategy, while also addressing the challenge of coordinating the various stakeholders and technologies involved in securing the border. (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023)

## **USGS's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The United States Geological Survey can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in geospatial data, environmental monitoring, and natural resource management.

The USGS can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the USGS can provide critical geospatial data and analysis to support the planning, implementation, and monitoring of border security operations. By utilizing its extensive database of topographical, geological, and environmental information, the USGS can help identify potential vulnerabilities, map out infrastructure, and assist in the deployment of surveillance and interdiction assets along the border.

Second, the USGS can play a crucial role in monitoring and assessing the environmental impacts of border activities, such as the construction of physical barriers, the deployment of surveillance technologies, and the management of natural resources. By leveraging its expertise in ecological research and environmental science, the USGS can help to ensure that the border policy is implemented in a manner that minimizes damage to sensitive ecosystems and protects the long-term sustainability of the region.

Third, the USGS can collaborate with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and international partners to develop comprehensive, data-driven strategies for managing shared natural resources and mitigating transboundary environmental threats along the border. By fostering cross-jurisdictional cooperation and information-sharing, the USGS can help to enhance the overall effectiveness and resilience of the border policy.

By contributing its specialized expertise and data-driven insights, the USGS can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and sustainable border policy, helping to balance the need for security with the imperative of environmental protection and resource management.

## **NGA's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in geospatial intelligence, imagery analysis, and data integration.

The NGA can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the NGA can provide advanced geospatial intelligence and imagery analysis to support the real-time monitoring and assessment of border activities. By utilizing its extensive collection of satellite, aerial, and ground-based imagery, as well as its sophisticated data processing and analysis capabilities, the NGA can help to identify potential threats, track the movement of people and goods, and support the deployment of interdiction and enforcement assets.

Second, the NGA can assist in the integration and fusion of diverse data sources, including those from other federal agencies, state and local governments, and international partners, to create a comprehensive, integrated picture of border activities and threats. By leveraging its expertise in data management, visualization, and decision support, the NGA can help to enhance the situational awareness and operational effectiveness of border security personnel.

Third, the NGA can contribute to the development of predictive analytics and risk modeling tools to help anticipate and mitigate potential threats along the border. By applying its advanced analytical capabilities to a wide range of geospatial, demographic, and socioeconomic data, the NGA can help to identify emerging risks, inform strategic planning, and optimize the deployment of resources.

By contributing its specialized expertise and data-driven insights, the NGA can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy, helping to strengthen the nation's security and protect its critical infrastructure.

## **USDOT Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The United States Department of Transportation can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in transportation infrastructure, logistics, and multimodal integration.

The USDOT can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the USDOT can help to ensure the efficient and secure movement of people and goods across the border by optimizing the design, maintenance, and operation of transportation infrastructure, such as roads, bridges, ports, and airports. By collaborating with border agencies, the USDOT can help to identify and address bottlenecks, streamline inspection and clearance processes, and enhance the overall resilience of the transportation network.

Second, the USDOT can assist in the development of advanced logistics and supply chain management strategies to support the effective monitoring and control of cross-border flows of goods and materials. By leveraging its expertise in data analytics, automation, and transportation management, the USDOT can help to enhance the visibility, traceability, and security of commercial supply chains, while minimizing disruptions and delays.

Third, the USDOT can contribute to the integration of multimodal transportation systems, connecting various modes of travel (e.g., road, rail, air, and maritime) to create a seamless and efficient border crossing experience for both passengers and freight. By coordinating with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and private-sector partners, the USDOT can help to develop innovative solutions that enhance the overall efficiency and security of the border crossing process.

By contributing its specialized expertise and data-driven insights, the USDOT can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy, helping to strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness, improve the flow of people and cross-border commerce, and safeguard the security of the United States.

## **Department of Commerce's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The U.S. Department of Commerce can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in trade facilitation, economic analysis, and industry-specific knowledge.

The Department of Commerce can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the Department can help to identify and mitigate the potential trade and economic impacts of border security measures, ensuring that the policy balances the need for security with the imperative of facilitating legitimate trade and commerce. By conducting

thorough economic analyses and engaging with the private sector, the Department can provide policymakers with valuable insights to optimize the border policy and minimize disruptions to international trade and supply chains. (Singh et al., 2022) (Pratama & Everett, 2017)

Second, the Department can assist in the development of technology-driven solutions to enhance border security and efficiency, including the use of advanced data analytics, artificial intelligence, and automation. By collaborating with the private sector and leveraging its industry-specific expertise, the Department can help to identify and implement innovative approaches that improve border processing, reduce delays, and prevent illicit activities. (Signoret, 2011)

Third, the Department can contribute to the coordination and integration of border management efforts with other government agencies, international partners, and the private sector. By facilitating cross-border cooperation, information sharing, and the harmonization of policies and regulations, the Department can help to create a more seamless and efficient border environment that supports both security and economic objectives. (Matthews et al., 2015)

By providing economic analysis, industry expertise, and a collaborative approach, the Department of Commerce can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy, helping to strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness and ensure the secure and efficient movement of people and goods across the border.

### **US Coast Guard's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The United States Coast Guard can play a critical role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy, leveraging its unique capabilities and expertise in maritime security, search and rescue, and maritime transportation.

The Coast Guard can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the Coast Guard can enhance the security of the nation's maritime borders and ports by conducting maritime patrols, interdicting illicit activities, and collaborating with other federal, state, and local agencies. By maintaining a robust presence in the coastal and offshore environments, the Coast Guard can help to detect, deter, and respond to a wide range of threats, from smuggling and illegal immigration to potential terrorist activities.

Second, the Coast Guard can assist in the development and implementation of advanced maritime domain awareness capabilities, including the use of sensors, data analytics, and information sharing platforms. By providing real-time intelligence and actionable information to other border agencies, the Coast Guard can help to improve the overall situational awareness and decision-making capabilities of the border security enterprise. (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017) (Sa'ad & Huda, 2023)

Third, the Coast Guard can contribute to the facilitation of legitimate maritime trade and transportation by streamlining vessel inspection and clearance processes, while maintaining rigorous security protocols. By collaborating with the private sector and international partners, the Coast Guard can help to ensure the efficient and secure movement of goods and passengers through the nation's ports and waterways.

By leveraging its unique maritime expertise, operational capabilities, and partnerships, the United States Coast Guard can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy, helping to secure the nation's borders while preserving the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

### **USDOI's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The U.S. Department of the Interior can play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its expertise in land management, natural resource conservation, and tribal affairs.

The USDOI can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the USDOI can help to ensure the responsible and sustainable use of public lands and natural resources along the border, balancing the need for security with the imperative of environmental protection and ecological preservation. By conducting environmental assessments, managing wildlife habitats, and collaborating with stakeholders, the USDOI can help to mitigate the potential ecological impacts of border infrastructure and operations.

Second, the USDOI can assist in the coordination and integration of border management efforts with tribal nations, recognizing their unique status as sovereign entities and their historical ties to border regions. By fostering government-to-government relationships and facilitating the participation of tribal communities in the policymaking process, the USDOI can help to ensure that the border policy respects the rights and interests of indigenous peoples.

Third, the USDOI can contribute to the development of innovative technologies and solutions to enhance border security and efficiency, leveraging its expertise in areas such as remote sensing, geospatial analysis, and natural resource management. By collaborating with other federal agencies and the private sector, the USDOI can help to identify and implement sustainable and ecologically-friendly approaches to border management.

By providing expertise in land stewardship, tribal relations, and environmental conservation, the USDOI can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy, helping to strike a balance between national security, public safety, and the protection of natural and cultural resources.

The Bureau of Land Management can take the following specific actions to provide strategic assistance in helping the Department of Homeland Security meet its border policy objectives:

First, the BLM can work closely with DHS to identify and manage public lands and resources along the border that may be utilized for border infrastructure or operations. By conducting comprehensive land use planning and environmental assessments, the BLM can help ensure that any border-related activities on federal lands are carried out in a responsible and sustainable manner, minimizing the impact on sensitive ecosystems and natural resources.

Second, the BLM can leverage its expertise in geospatial technology, remote sensing, and data analysis to assist DHS in enhancing border surveillance and monitoring capabilities. By providing DHS with detailed mapping, aerial imagery, and other geospatial intelligence, the BLM can help improve the situational awareness and decision-making capabilities of border agents and law enforcement personnel.

Third, the BLM can collaborate with DHS to develop and deploy innovative technological solutions for border security, such as the use of unmanned aerial vehicles, sensor networks, and advanced data analytics. By drawing upon its experience in managing complex technological systems and infrastructure, the BLM can help DHS identify and implement cost-effective, efficient, and environmentally-friendly approaches to border security.

Finally, the BLM can play a crucial role in facilitating interagency coordination and community engagement along the border. By serving as a liaison between DHS, other federal agencies, state and local governments, and tribal nations, the BLM can help to ensure that border policy is implemented in a manner that respects the rights and interests of all stakeholders, while also addressing the unique geographic, environmental, and cultural considerations of border regions.

Overall, the strategic assistance of the USDOT, and specifically the Bureau of Land Management, can be invaluable in the development and implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy that balances national security, public safety,

### **US Postal Service's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The U.S. Postal Service can also play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy. As a critical component of the nation's infrastructure, the USPS can contribute to the border policy in the following ways:

First, the USPS can leverage its extensive network of post offices and mail processing facilities located near or along the border to enhance the security and efficiency of cross-border mail and parcel delivery. By implementing advanced screening and

tracking technologies, the USPS can help to prevent the illicit transport of contraband, weapons, or other threats across the border while facilitating the legitimate flow of international commerce.

Second, the USPS can collaborate with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Customs and Border Protection, to share relevant data and intelligence related to cross-border mail and parcel activity. This information sharing can support the development of targeted risk-based strategies and enable the proactive detection and interdiction of potential security threats.

Third, the USPS can contribute to the development of innovative solutions for secure and efficient border crossings, such as the integration of automation, robotics, and advanced tracking technologies into its border-related operations. By leveraging its expertise in logistics and transportation, the USPS can help to streamline the movement of goods and people across the border while enhancing safety and security measures.

By leveraging its extensive infrastructure, data, and technological capabilities, the USPS can be a valuable partner in the implementation of a comprehensive and effective border policy, helping to strengthen the nation's economic competitiveness, improve the flow of cross-border commerce, and safeguard the security of the United States.

### **SEC's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

By engaging with both government and non-governmental stakeholders, the SEC can help to facilitate a collaborative and inclusive approach to border policy development and implementation. Through its expertise in financial regulation, the SEC can also contribute to the prevention and detection of illicit financial activities, such as money laundering and terrorist financing, that may be associated with cross-border movements.

The SEC can also play a strategic role in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy. As the primary regulator of the U.S. securities markets, the SEC can leverage its expertise in financial regulation to help prevent and detect illicit financial activities, such as money laundering and terrorist financing, that may be associated with cross-border movements. By engaging with both government and non-governmental stakeholders, the SEC can help to facilitate a collaborative and inclusive approach to border policy development and implementation.

One key way the SEC can contribute is by strengthening its coordination and information-sharing with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of the Treasury, to identify and disrupt the financial networks that may be supporting criminal or terrorist activities along the border. (Chitimira, 2014) This can involve the sharing of intelligence, the development of joint risk assessment frameworks, and the implementation of targeted enforcement actions.

Additionally, the SEC can work to enhance its cross-border enforcement capabilities, leveraging its existing relationships with securities regulators in other countries to



facilitate the investigation and prosecution of transnational financial crimes. (Silvers, 2020) By improving its ability to gather evidence, secure witness testimony, and trace the flow of illicit funds across borders, the SEC can play a critical role in supporting the broader efforts to secure the U.S. border and protect national security.

Furthermore, the SEC can contribute to the development of innovative financial technologies and solutions that can aid in border security and efficiency, such as digital identity verification, blockchain-based tracking systems, and advanced analytics tools. By collaborating with the private sector and other government agencies, the SEC can help to identify and implement cutting-edge approaches to enhancing the integrity and resilience of cross-border financial flows.

### **NLRB's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The NLRB can assist in the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by ensuring that the rights and protections afforded to workers, regardless of immigration status, are upheld at the border and in related industries. The NLRB can collaborate with other federal agencies to develop guidelines and protocols that safeguard the labor rights of all individuals employed in border-related sectors, such as transportation, logistics, and construction. This can involve enforcing laws against unfair labor practices, preventing worker exploitation, and promoting fair wages and working conditions.

Additionally, the NLRB can play a role in addressing potential labor shortages that may arise due to changes in border policies or enforcement actions. By working closely with employers, unions, and community organizations, the NLRB can help to identify and address workforce needs, facilitate training and hiring programs, and ensure the continuity of critical infrastructure and services along the border.

Furthermore, the NLRB can contribute to the development of strategies that mitigate the potential negative impacts of border policies on border communities and workers. This can include providing guidance on managing workforce transitions, supporting job retraining and placement initiatives, and collaborating with state and local governments to develop economic development plans that foster resilience and opportunity in affected areas.

By upholding worker protections, addressing labor market disruptions, and supporting the economic wellbeing of border communities, the NLRB can play a vital role in ensuring that the implementation of the border policy is fair, equitable, and aligned with the broader national interests.

## **FASB's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The FASB can assist in the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by ensuring that the financial reporting and accounting standards applied to border-related industries and activities are transparent, consistent, and aligned with the policy's objectives. The FASB can work to develop and update accounting guidelines that enhance the visibility of cross-border financial flows, facilitate the tracking of illicit activities, and promote the integrity and resilience of the financial systems supporting border operations.

Additionally, the FASB can collaborate with the SEC and other regulatory agencies to establish reporting requirements and disclosures that enable the monitoring and evaluation of the financial impacts associated with the border policy. This can include the reporting of investments in border-related infrastructure, the tracking of cross-border trade and investment flows, and the disclosure of financial risks and mitigation strategies.

By ensuring the availability of reliable and standardized financial information, the FASB can contribute to the overall transparency and accountability of the border policy's implementation, empowering policymakers, businesses, and the public to make informed decisions and assessments. This alignment of financial reporting with the border policy's objectives can also help to deter potential financial crimes and support the broader efforts to secure the nation's borders and protect national interests.

Furthermore, the FASB can explore the development of accounting standards that incentivize and reward businesses for adopting responsible and sustainable practices in their border-related operations.

## **NOAA's Strategic Contributions to Border Policy**

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration can play a critical role in supporting the implementation of a comprehensive border policy by leveraging its scientific expertise and resources in the areas of environmental monitoring, data analysis, and climate change adaptation.

One key contribution of NOAA would be its ability to provide robust environmental data and analysis to inform the development and implementation of border policies. NOAA's extensive network of monitoring stations, satellites, and research vessels can collect and analyze crucial information on factors such as weather patterns, water resources, and ecosystem health along the U.S. borders and in neighboring regions. This data can help policymakers and stakeholders better understand the environmental context and potential impacts of border-related activities, enabling more informed and sustainable decision-making.

Moreover, NOAA's climate change adaptation expertise can be invaluable in addressing the potential long-term effects of border policy on local communities and ecosystems.

By incorporating climate change projections and adaptation strategies into the border policy framework, NOAA can help ensure that the policy is resilient and responsive to the evolving environmental challenges facing border regions.

NOAA can also contribute to the development of innovative technologies and monitoring systems that enhance the efficiency and environmental sustainability of border operations. For example, NOAA's expertise in remote sensing and data analytics can support the deployment of advanced surveillance and monitoring systems that minimize the environmental footprint of border enforcement while maintaining security.

Additionally, NOAA can collaborate with other federal agencies, state and local governments, and community stakeholders to develop comprehensive, ecosystem-based management strategies for border regions. These strategies can incorporate conservation priorities, sustainable resource use, and community resilience, ensuring that the border policy aligns with the broader goals of environmental protection and sustainable development.

### **AmeriCorps Internships as a Strategic Resource in Border Policy**

The incorporation of AmeriCorps internships can be a valuable strategic resource in the implementation of a comprehensive U.S. border policy. AmeriCorps, a national service program administered by the Corporation for National and Community Service, provides opportunities for individuals to engage in intensive community service work, often in underserved or disadvantaged areas.

By leveraging AmeriCorps internships, the border policy can benefit from the influx of dedicated and passionate individuals who can contribute their skills and energy to various aspects of the policy's implementation.

For example, AmeriCorps interns could be deployed to border communities to assist with infrastructure projects, community engagement initiatives, and the provision of social services. Their on-the-ground presence and deep local knowledge can help ensure that the border policy is responsive to the needs and concerns of affected communities, fostering greater trust and collaboration.

Moreover, the internship experience can provide valuable professional development opportunities for the participants, allowing them to gain hands-on experience in fields such as public administration, environmental management, and community development. This can help build a pipeline of skilled and knowledgeable individuals who can contribute to the long-term implementation and refinement of the border policy.

Additionally, research has shown that high-quality internship programs, such as those offered by AmeriCorps, can promote volunteer retention and civic engagement (McBride & Lee, 2011). By integrating AmeriCorps internships into the border policy, the government can tap into a pool of motivated and civically-engaged individuals who can contribute to the policy's success and long-term sustainability.

In summary, the strategic incorporation of AmeriCorps internships can be a valuable asset in the implementation of a comprehensive U.S. border policy, leveraging the talents and dedication of young people to support community-driven initiatives, foster stakeholder engagement, and build a pipeline of future leaders in the field of border management.

## **Office of the President's Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

As the strategic objective for the Office of the President in assisting with the implementation of a comprehensive border policy, the executive branch can provide essential leadership, coordination, and oversight to ensure the successful and balanced execution of this critical national initiative.

The President, as the head of the executive branch, can utilize their constitutional authority to establish a unified and coherent vision for the nation's border management strategy. This can involve issuing executive orders, directives, and policy guidance that aligns the efforts of various federal agencies and foster collaboration among state, local, and tribal governments.

Moreover, the President can leverage the convening power of the Office of the President to facilitate high-level dialogues and negotiations with key stakeholders, including foreign governments, industry leaders, and civil society organizations. By bringing together diverse perspectives and interests, the President can help to identify innovative solutions, address potential challenges, and build broad-based support for the border policy.

The President's role in signing legislation passed by Congress and appointing federal officials, such as the Secretary of Homeland Security and the Commissioner of Customs and Border Protection, also provides the executive branch with the necessary tools to ensure the effective implementation and oversight of the border policy. Through these appointments and the exercise of the veto power, the President can help to shape the leadership, priorities, and accountability mechanisms that drive the execution of the border management strategy.

Finally, the President can serve as a spokesperson and advocate for the border policy, articulating its objectives, rationale, and expected outcomes to the American public. By fostering transparency, addressing concerns, and demonstrating the policy's alignment with the nation's core values and interests, the President can help to build public trust and support for the border management initiatives.

## **Other Relevant Federal Agencies' Strategic Objective in Assisting in Border Policy**

The merits of the CSI program aside, there is an empirical question as to whether and to what extent such security measures increase trade costs and constitute a new form

of non-tariff barrier. While the CSI aims to push back the border and secure the country against terrorist threats, there are concerns that the program's implementation could potentially impede the flow of legitimate trade and increase overall trade costs.

Congress should carefully examine the incremental gains that may come from additional spending on border enforcement, as the evidence suggests that deterrence through enforcement is producing diminishing returns. The increasing share of asylum seekers from Central America, who are harder to deter and in many cases have legitimate claims, underscores the need for a more nuanced and comprehensive approach to border management.

To effectively implement a balanced border policy, the involvement and strategic coordination of other relevant federal agencies, such as the Department of Commerce, the Department of Transportation, and the Environmental Protection Agency, will be crucial.

The Department of Commerce can play a key role in assessing the economic impacts of border security measures and ensuring that the policy strikes an appropriate balance between national security and the facilitation of legitimate trade and commerce. The Department of Transportation can contribute expertise in infrastructure planning, logistics, and the management of cross-border transportation networks. The Environmental Protection Agency can provide critical input on the environmental implications of border infrastructure development and the mitigation of any potential ecological impacts.

By aligning the strategic objectives and coordinating the efforts of these diverse federal agencies, the border policy can be designed and implemented in a manner that optimizes for national security, economic prosperity, and environmental sustainability.

## **The Role of Private Citizens in Supporting Border Policy**

In addition to the governmental entities responsible for implementing the proposed border policy, private citizens also have an important role to play in supporting and upholding its objectives. As members of the broader community, private citizens are protected by the constitutional rights enshrined in the Bill of Rights, which must be respected and safeguarded throughout the execution of this policy.

Private citizens can also contribute to the success of the border policy by serving as active participants in the democratic process. Through exercising their right to vote, engaging with their elected representatives, and participating in public forums and town hall meetings, citizens can provide valuable feedback, raise concerns, and advocate for policies that strike a balance between national security, public health, and individual liberties.

Furthermore, private citizens can support the border policy by adhering to the guidelines and protocols established by public health and border security authorities. This includes complying with screening and testing requirements, reporting any suspected disease

symptoms or potential biosecurity threats, and cooperating with contact tracing efforts in the event of a disease outbreak.

By fostering a culture of civic engagement, transparency, and collective responsibility, the proposed border policy can harness the contributions of private citizens to enhance the overall effectiveness and legitimacy of the nation's border management strategies.

By actively exercising these constitutional rights, private citizens can hold the government accountable, contribute to the transparency and oversight of border operations, and ensure that the proposed policy is implemented in a manner that upholds the fundamental principles of American democracy. This participation can take various forms, such as participating in public hearings, submitting comments on proposed regulations, filing legal challenges against unlawful actions, and supporting community-based organizations that provide aid and advocacy for border-affected populations.

Moreover, private citizens can play a crucial role in promoting cross-cultural understanding, fostering empathy, and combating xenophobia and discrimination within their local communities. By engaging in educational initiatives, volunteering with humanitarian organizations, and fostering inclusive dialogues, private citizens can help to create an environment that is welcoming and supportive of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status or national origin.

By embracing their constitutional rights and responsibilities, private citizens can become active partners in the implementation of the proposed border policy, ensuring that it is carried out in a manner that reflects the core values of the United States and serves the best interests of all its inhabitants.

## **The Role of Federal, State, and Municipal Elections Commissions in Supporting Effective Border Policy**

The successful implementation of the proposed border policy will require close coordination and collaboration among various levels of government, including federal, state, and municipal authorities. In this regard, the nation's elections commissions, at all levels, will play a crucial role in upholding the integrity and transparency of the democratic processes that underpin the legitimacy of border management strategies.

At the federal level, the United States Election Assistance Commission will be responsible for providing guidance, resources, and best practices to state and local election officials. The EAC will work to ensure that border communities have access to secure and accessible voting systems, enabling residents to participate in the democratic decision-making process and hold their elected representatives accountable for the implementation of the border policy.

State and local elections commissions, in turn, will be responsible for administering elections, overseeing voter registration, and enforcing election security protocols within their respective jurisdictions. These commissions will work closely with federal agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security and the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, to safeguard the electoral process from potential interference or disruption, including any threats that may arise from cross-border activities or transnational actors.

Furthermore, municipal elections commissions will play a critical role in ensuring that border communities have a voice in the development and implementation of the border policy. These commissions will facilitate public outreach, voter education initiatives, and multilingual resources to empower residents to engage with the political process and advocate for their interests. By fostering civic participation at the local level, municipal elections commissions can help to build trust and legitimacy for the border policy, as well as hold elected officials accountable for its impacts on border communities.

Overall, the partnership between the proposed border policy and the nation's elections commissions at all levels of government will be essential for upholding the principles of democracy, transparency, and accountability. By working together, these entities can ensure that the border policy is implemented in a manner that respects the fundamental rights and freedoms of all individuals, while also addressing the unique needs and concerns of border communities.

### **Electronic Borders and the Role of the USPTO**

In addition to physical infrastructure and personnel, the proposed border policy also emphasizes the importance of integrating advanced technologies to enhance border security and efficiency. This includes the deployment of electronic border management systems, which leverage cutting-edge innovations in areas such as biometrics, data analytics, and autonomous monitoring.

The United States Patent and Trademark Office will play a crucial role in facilitating the development and deployment of these technological solutions. The USPTO will work to incentivize the creation of innovative border security technologies through the granting of patents, ensuring that inventors and entrepreneurs have the necessary protections and incentives to bring their ideas to fruition.

Moreover, the USPTO will collaborate with border agencies to facilitate the rapid adoption and integration of new technologies, ensuring that the latest advancements in areas like facial recognition, sensor networks, and predictive analytics are seamlessly incorporated into border operations. This synergy between the USPTO and border agencies will enhance the overall effectiveness of the border policy, enabling the United States to stay ahead of evolving threats and maintain a robust and agile border management system.

By harnessing the power of cutting-edge technologies and fostering a dynamic ecosystem of innovation, the proposed border policy can bolster national security, facilitate legitimate cross-border movements, and uphold the principles of transparency and accountability that are fundamental to American democracy.

## **Ethical Considerations and Privacy Safeguards**

The proposed border policy acknowledges the critical importance of protecting the fundamental rights and civil liberties of all individuals, including those seeking to cross the border. As such, the policy will be implemented in a manner that is mindful of the potential impacts on personal privacy and the ethical implications of the technologies used.

The use of biometric data, such as facial recognition and fingerprint scanning, will be subject to rigorous oversight and robust privacy safeguards. (Abomhara et al., 2020) (Binder et al., 2020) (Abomhara et al., 2019) This includes the implementation of data minimization principles, where only the necessary personal information is collected and retained, as well as the establishment of clear guidelines for the secure storage, processing, and sharing of this sensitive data.

Furthermore, the policy will incorporate Privacy by Design principles, ensuring that privacy and ethical considerations are embedded into the very architecture of the border management systems. (Abomhara et al., 2019) This will involve proactive measures to mitigate the risks of data breaches, unauthorized access, and the misuse of personal information, while also providing transparent mechanisms for individuals to access, correct, and delete their data as necessary.

To ensure the ongoing protection of individual rights, the proposed border policy will also establish independent oversight mechanisms, such as the creation of a biometric privacy commission or the empowerment of existing regulatory bodies to monitor the implementation and impact of these technologies. This will help to ensure that the deployment of biometrics and other advanced technologies at the border is done in a manner that is consistent with the principles of due process, equal protection, and respect for human dignity.

Overall, the proposed border policy aims to strike a careful balance between the legitimate security concerns of the nation and the fundamental rights and freedoms of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status or national origin.

## **The Role of Energy Policy**

In addition to physical infrastructure and personnel, the proposed border policy also requires a robust and coordinated energy policy to support its implementation. The Department of Energy and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will play a crucial role in ensuring that the border management initiatives have access to the necessary energy resources and infrastructure.



The DOE will work to develop and implement a comprehensive energy strategy that addresses the unique needs of the border region. This may include investments in renewable energy sources, such as solar and wind power, to provide reliable and sustainable power for border facilities, surveillance systems, and transportation networks. The DOE will also explore the potential for energy storage technologies to enhance the resilience of the border energy infrastructure, ensuring that critical operations can continue even during disruptions to the power grid.

FERC, as the regulatory authority for the nation's interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil, will be responsible for ensuring that the energy needs of the border policy are met. This may involve the approval of new transmission lines, pipeline projects, and other energy infrastructure necessary to support border operations. FERC will also work to streamline the permitting process and remove regulatory barriers to the timely deployment of these essential energy assets.

To fund these energy-related initiatives, the proposed border policy will allocate a portion of the overall budget to the DOE and FERC. This may include:

- \$227 million for the development and deployment of renewable energy solutions at border facilities and along the border infrastructure
- \$888 million for the modernization and expansion of the energy transmission and distribution networks serving the border region
- \$437 million for the establishment of energy storage and resilience measures to ensure the continuity of border operations during disruptions

By integrating a robust and forward-looking energy policy into the broader border management strategy, the United States can ensure that the border security and efficiency objectives are supported by a reliable, sustainable, and resilient energy infrastructure. This comprehensive approach will help to strengthen national security, promote economic growth, and uphold the country's commitment to environmental stewardship and responsible energy development.

### **Funding Requirements (continued):**

Additionally, the proposed border policy will require the following funding allocations:

- \$312 million for the development and deployment of advanced data analytics, artificial intelligence, and machine learning tools to enhance border security and facilitate legitimate cross-border movements.
- \$863 million for the establishment of a robust cybersecurity infrastructure to protect the border management systems and sensitive data from cyber threats.
- \$336 million for the creation of a comprehensive public outreach and engagement program, designed to foster collaboration with local communities, civil society organizations, and international partners.

- \$639 million for the implementation of a seamless, interoperable, and secure information-sharing network among federal, state, and local agencies involved in border management operations.

By investing in these critical areas, the proposed border policy can deliver a multifaceted and holistic approach to strengthening the nation's borders, safeguarding its interests, and upholding its core values and commitments.

## **The Role of the Courts in Border Policy**

To ensure the ongoing protection of individual rights and the lawful implementation of border security measures, the proposed policy will establish a dedicated judicial framework to provide independent oversight and accountability. This will involve the creation of a specialized Border Policy Review Court, which will be staffed by experienced federal judges with expertise in constitutional law, immigration, and national security.

The Border Policy Review Court will be responsible for:

- Reviewing the implementation of border security technologies and procedures to ensure compliance with due process, equal protection, and other constitutional guarantees
- Adjudicating disputes and grievances filed by individuals affected by border security measures, providing a clear avenue for redress and the protection of civil liberties
- Issuing binding rulings on the legality and appropriateness of border security policies and practices, with the authority to order corrective actions or the cessation of unlawful activities

To support the effective functioning of the Border Policy Review Court, the proposed policy will allocate \$112 million in annual funding for the recruitment and training of specialized judges, the establishment of dedicated courtrooms and administrative infrastructure, and the provision of legal resources and expert witnesses as needed.

By integrating this judicial framework into the broader border management strategy, the United States can ensure that the deployment of advanced technologies and the enforcement of border regulations are carried out in a manner that is fully consistent with the rule of law and the fundamental rights of all individuals, regardless of their immigration status or national origin.

# Legislative Proposal for US Border Policy

The proposed US border policy aims to enhance national security, facilitate legitimate cross-border movements, and uphold the fundamental rights and freedoms of all individuals. This comprehensive approach will involve a range of initiatives, including:

- Upgrading and expanding physical infrastructure, such as advanced surveillance systems, inspection facilities, and targeted border barriers, to enhance monitoring and control of unauthorized border crossings, while minimizing the environmental impact and respecting the rights of local communities.
- Deploying a well-trained and equipped border security workforce, with a focus on recruitment, retention, and continuous professional development, to ensure the effective and humane enforcement of border regulations.
- Streamlining border procedures and implementing innovative technologies, such as biometrics and data analytics, to facilitate the efficient and secure processing of lawful travelers and goods, while also identifying and intercepting potential threats.

## Funding Requirements:

To support the implementation of this comprehensive border policy, the following funding allocations are proposed:

- \$1.5 billion for the upgrade and expansion of physical border infrastructure, including advanced surveillance systems, inspection facilities, and targeted border barriers.
- \$1.2 billion for the recruitment, training, and professional development of a well-equipped border security workforce, with a focus on promoting diversity, cultural competence, and adherence to human rights standards.
- \$1.1 billion for the implementation of innovative technologies, such as biometrics and data analytics, to streamline border procedures and enhance the efficiency and security of cross-border movements.

*The proposed border policy aims to strike a balance between strengthening national security and facilitating legitimate cross-border travel and trade, while upholding the fundamental rights and freedoms of all individuals. (Bledsoe-Gardner, 2017) (Alden, 2017)*

## Energy and Infrastructure Support

To ensure the successful implementation of the proposed border policy, it is essential to integrate a comprehensive energy and infrastructure strategy.

This includes:

- Investing in the development and deployment of renewable energy solutions, such as solar and wind power, to power border facilities and infrastructure, reducing the reliance on fossil fuels and enhancing the sustainability of border operations. (Rosenblum, 2012)
- Modernizing and expanding the energy transmission and distribution networks serving the border region, ensuring the reliable and resilient supply of electricity and other essential energy resources to support border security and efficiency. (Lowry et al., 1951)
- Establishing energy storage and resilience measures, such as microgrids and battery storage systems, to ensure the continuity of border operations during disruptions and emergencies.

By integrating a robust and forward-looking energy policy into the broader border management strategy, the United States can ensure that the border security and efficiency objectives are supported by a reliable, sustainable, and resilient energy infrastructure.

By allocating the necessary resources to address the multifaceted needs of the border region, the proposed policy can strike a careful balance between security, economic prosperity, and the protection of civil liberties and human rights. By proactively engaging with these diverse stakeholders, understanding their needs, and developing collaborative solutions, the proposed border policy can foster a sense of shared responsibility and collective ownership. This approach will not only enhance the effectiveness of the policy but also strengthen the social fabric and promote the wellbeing of all affected communities.

Ultimately, this comprehensive border policy proposal aims to enhance the security and efficiency of U.S. borders through a balanced approach that upholds the nation's values, meets its international obligations, and serves the interests of all Americans. By investing in a comprehensive and balanced approach to border management, the United States can enhance national security, promote economic prosperity, and uphold its commitment to human rights and humanitarian principles.

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effectiveness of the policy but also strengthen the social fabric and promote the wellbeing of all affected communities.

Overall, this comprehensive border policy proposal aims to enhance the security and efficiency of U.S. borders through a balanced approach that upholds the nation's values, meets its international obligations, and serves the interests of all Americans.

By investing in a comprehensive and balanced approach to border management, the United States can enhance national security, promote economic prosperity, and uphold its commitment to human rights and humanitarian principles.

## **Conclusion**

The proposed border policy aims to enhance the security and efficiency of U.S. borders through a balanced approach that upholds the nation's values, meets its international obligations, and serves the interests of all Americans. The policy includes upgrading border infrastructure, deploying a well-trained border security workforce, and implementing innovative technologies. The funding requirements cover these areas, as well as integrating a comprehensive energy and infrastructure strategy to support sustainable and resilient border operations. The policy seeks to strike a balance between security, economic prosperity, and the protection of civil liberties and human rights, fostering a sense of shared responsibility and collective ownership among diverse stakeholders.



*How can the United States craft a border policy that not only enhances security and international cooperation, but also fosters economic growth, upholds humanitarian values, and creates new opportunities for both citizens and immigrants alike?*

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