

Dale Lynn Carruthers

Terrell County Judge

Terrell County Rancher

“A nation that cannot control its borders is not a nation.”

The Biden Border Crisis: Part 1

Chairman Jordan, Ranking Member Nadler, and Members of the Committee. Thank you for inviting me to testify today.

I am Terrell County Judge and rancher Dale Lynn Carruthers. I'm here today to discuss the affects the open border is having on ranching as well as communities living along the Southern Border. The chaos caused by this administration's open border is the reason I and many others like me have switched parties. In the past I ran as a Democrat and come from a family that has traditionally been Democrat and I chose to switch Parties. I am a Republican.

Our ranch that has been in the family for four generation it is a 17000-acre ranch on the border of Texas and runs along the Rio Grande. Large groups have been apprehended on our property in one instance a group of 49 in a pasture right behind our home. Terrell County neighbors Val Verde County. Shortly after all the immigrants were cleared from under the international bridge, we experienced a large group of 600 broken into smaller groups of 20 to 30 stretching from the Val Verde County line to deep into Terrell County. This was a separate incident under the international bridge however groups like this continue to travel in droves.

We are one of many ranches experiencing massive amounts of water system damages on our properties from busted waterlines causing storage tanks to lose water levels therefore incurring astronomical electric bills and other expenses to regain sufficient water to adequately water livestock and game animals. Families and their livestock and crops depend on this water and this loss affects the landowner is such a great way not only financially for the strain is unimaginable. I have had a rancher in my county have his water lines busted over 300 times. The damage typically occurs within a few feet of a water tank or trough in some instances ranchers have put in water spigots to try to decrease the damage and still the destruction occurs.

Having hundreds of illegals trespass on private property destroying fence lines and leaving a massive amount of garbage in their path is not only dangerous if eaten by the livestock but can also leach into the ground and contaminate the ground water. These net wire fences cost on an average from 5 to 15 dollars per linear foot to build. An average ranch of 10000 acres standard height will cost around a million dollars and a game proof high fence is three times that amount. This is only the circumference of the property line.

Ranchers live their lives everyday concerned for their safety. They never know what they are going to walk into. We feel violated, angry, and often worry that we will have to make a choice to protect our own lives. We the landowners have experienced Illegals breaking into our houses stealing food and, in some instances, burning down ranch houses.

Communities along the border are living in fear. They fear for their lives every day they feel their safety concerns are valid. The invasion of illegals trespassing on their property flows from the countryside right into our communities and straight into yours. The cartels are wreaking havoc by smuggling drugs, criminal aliens and individuals on the terrorist watch list and praying on people and exposing them to the elements and rugged terrain resulting in deaths and human trafficking. The immigration crisis on the Southern border is unacceptable and has resulted in a security threat and humanitarian crisis greater than what the American public is led to believe.

This crisis has depleted our resources our fire department, EMS, and Law enforcement are faced with the burden of dealing with the aftermath of dangerous situations every day. My community of less than a thousand people and we are over an hour away from the nearest hospital, and in one incidence during a pursuit with traffickers an accident occurred leaving 11 illegals needing assistance in the middle of the county an hour away from our small community. Our first responders were dispatched out requiring additional support from three of our neighboring communities all of which were an hour away in every direction. This pulls resources from this respective tax paying American citizens who depend on our emergency services. Our 911 lines are often tied up for hours with calls from illegals lost in the brush. These individuals are often abandoned by their groups and left to die if they are too weak to continue their trek. Countless law enforcement and Border Patrol rescue people everyday and experience tragedy on a daily basis all the while being shorthanded.

The high-speed pursuits and bailouts have become a regular occurrence. We recently had two pursuits less than an hour apart one of which was a bailout. Sanderson our county seat is centrally located in a small basin of hills during this bailout illegals turned into the neighborhoods and ran towards the football field they were dressed in camo and scaled the hills with ease. Being so close to the school we were forced to lock down uncertain where a few from that group might be hiding they were later located hiding in a garage unbeknownst to the homeowner until he went to check his property.

A business owner in Dryden a small community in my county have had to resort to living in their shop to secure the property they regularly have illegals walk up and have experienced break ins.

In another instance a landowner came home to find illegals had broken into his home were sleeping in his bed eating his food and using his phone taking complete advantage of this respective landowner.

Landowners in my neighboring county witnessed illegals hiding in the bushes. They watched her feed her animals. He chased her as she ran to the safety of her home. Unbeknownst to her this illegal was part of a larger group than were later apprehended by the Border patrol.

This situation and countless others have become common place on the border it is a disruption to our everyday lives. We deserve to have a sense of security we need to know that the rule of law is being upheld. In every way shape or fashion. Something as simple as a July 4 parade or a drive to pick up groceries or walking on your own property should be just that and not a fear of a complete invasion from people with little to no regard for human life. There are victims on both sides of this border, and it is time to secure it. Americans deserve that.

Thank you for hearing my concerns. Please consider proper vetting on the border to reduce potential threats from criminal element. For those wanting to work on a temporary basis please consider

increasing bracero type visas and farm worker visas and allowing temp work visas. We can use RDIF chips to track them and charge visa and asylum fees.

Dale Carruthers

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