

2010 Border Governors Conference - Interim Meeting

Conferencia de Gobernadores Fronterizos - Asamblea Extraordinaria

Hosted by

Governor Bill Richardson and Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

Santa Fe, New Mexico

September 19 & 20, 2010

Border Governors Conference Interim Meeting **Joint Statement on the Mérida Initiative**

Whereas, in July 2010 the U.S. Congress approved \$175 million to support the enhanced Mérida Initiative strategy, including judicial reform, institution building, anti-corruption and rule of law activities.

Whereas, U.S. Secretary of State Clinton and Mexico's Foreign Minister Espinosa announced their Four Pillar Strategy, as a new approach to security cooperation, aimed at 1) disrupting and dismantling criminal organizations; 2) institutionalizing the rule of law; 3) building a 21st Century Border; and 4) building strong and resilient border communities.

Whereas, high level negotiations will resume between Mexico and U.S. federal officials to identify priorities and distribution of the supplemental \$175 million Mérida Initiative funds in the coming days.

Whereas, state and local entities provide the majority of law enforcement in Mexico and the United States.

Therefore, we the undersigned governors representing states on the US and Mexican side of the border, urge the US and Mexican federal government officials to prioritize Mérida Initiative funds to support state efforts along the border.

As contemplated in the Four Pillar Strategy, such funds should focus on enhancing capacity training for state and local law enforcement as envisioned by the Mérida Initiative.


And while initial efforts have been made to strengthen the border community of the El Paso – Juarez region that efforts need to be extended to the entire border region, from San Diego/Tijuana to Brownsville/Matamoros.

The Governors of the U.S. – Mexico Border
Los Gobernadores de la Frontera México – Estados Unidos



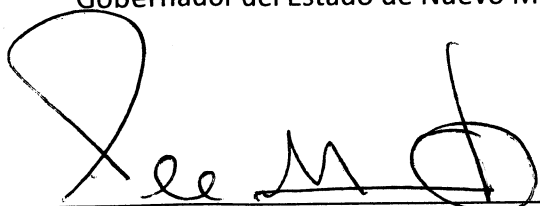
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