



WHEREAS, the board of the American Birding Association, as representatives of the North American birding community, seeks to protect birds and bird habitat; and

WHEREAS, The Department of Homeland Security (DHS), has announced the construction of a border fence ("the wall") between Texas and Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the DHS has announced that it is waiving nearly all environmental considerations for the project, a waiver unprecedented in its scope; and

WHEREAS, the proposed project has no requirement to determine if the wall will have significant detrimental impacts which outweigh its perceived benefits; and

WHEREAS, millions of dollars have been spent by both federal and state agencies to preserve the Lower Rio Grande Valley's diverse habitat, making it a top destination for ecotourists; and

WHEREAS, construction of the wall, with its attendant removal of critical habitat, will effectively remove and/or negate previous taxpayer-paid improvements; and

WHEREAS, critical habitat loss will result in a significant decrease in ecotourism, which brings approximately \$125 million a year into a region whose median per capita income is about \$11,000; and

WHEREAS, loss of ecotourism will mean that local governments will experience serious adverse impacts to their economies.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the board of the American Birding Association strongly opposes the proposed border wall in the Lower Rio Grande Valley. The board also urges all members of the U.S. Congress to join in opposition to this threat to the environment and economy of South Texas; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the board calls on the Department of Homeland Security to safeguard the vital and legitimate interests of all United States citizens by requiring that any border wall be subject, at a minimum, to environmental review as required by federal legislation.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Tom Pincelli". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Chair of the Board  
American Birding Association