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(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

**H. R.**

To prohibit construction of a continuous wall or fence between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

**A BILL**

To prohibit construction of a continuous wall or fence between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Build Bridges Not  
5 Walls Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1           (1) The existing United States-Mexico border  
2 infrastructure already includes physical barriers,  
3 drones, cameras, motion detectors, thermal imaging  
4 sensors, ground sensors, and other surveillance tools.

5           (2) The United States already maintains ap-  
6 proximately 650 miles of border fence in areas that  
7 most effectively stop the unauthorized entry of peo-  
8 ple, vehicles, drugs, arms, and illicit items.

9           (3) The number of U.S. Border Patrol agents  
10 nearly doubled from 10,717 in 1993 to 21,370 in  
11 2016.

12           (4) Most experts believe that the Trump Ad-  
13 ministration's border wall will cost between \$15 bil-  
14 lion to \$25 billion, not including additional mainte-  
15 nance costs.

16           (5) Harsh terrain and conditions along remote  
17 parts of the United States-Mexico border make the  
18 construction of a wall or fence impractical, ineffec-  
19 tive, and costly.

20           (6) Former CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske  
21 stated that building a continuous wall is not "fea-  
22 sible" or the "smartest way to use taxpayer money".

23           (7) A continuous border wall would likely harm  
24 wildlife, destroy sensitive habitat for endangered  
25 species, damage the environment and the natural

1 flow of floodwaters, and lead to costly litigation with  
2 landowners, the Native American community, and  
3 stakeholders.

4 (8) Border security is a complex issue that de-  
5 pends on effectively using resources to maintain  
6 operational control of the border while also facili-  
7 tating the movement of people, goods, and services.

8 (9) The American people want Congress to use  
9 taxpayer dollars wisely and focus on middle-class  
10 priorities, including economic development, edu-  
11 cation, and health care.

12 **SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION OF A UNITED**  
13 **STATES-MEXICO BORDER WALL.**

14 The Executive Order entitled “Border Security and  
15 Immigration Enforcement Improvements” signed by the  
16 President on January 25, 2017, or any other substantially  
17 similar executive order, memorandum, or other action by  
18 the President to use taxpayer dollars to construct a contin-  
19 uous wall or fence between the United States and Mexico,  
20 shall have no force or effect.