

May 8, 2015

The Honorable Senator Mitch McConnell  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Harry Reid  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Ron Johnson  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Senator Tom Carper  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators,

As national and regional organizations and Arizona-based faith leaders representing thousands of people and communities of faith, we urge you to oppose S. 750, the Arizona Borderlands Protection and Preservation Act. S. 750 does exactly the opposite of what its name implies: instead of protecting and preserving the federal, tribal, and environmentally unique lands surrounding the U.S.-Mexico border, it allows Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to utilize the lands for the primary purpose of organizing patrols and other surveillance methods. Expanding the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border through heavy patrols and off-road vehicle traffic of these protected lands will harm fragile ecosystems and already endangered species, desecrate sacred sites, violate religious freedom, damage public lands, and interfere with the lives and livelihoods of border communities. This contradicts our call as people of faith to care for God's creation and to respect the human dignity of all people.

Additionally, S. 750 measures a "secure border" by the rate of turn-backs and apprehensions of individuals trying to cross the U.S.-Mexico border. This risks giving the wrong impression to Border Patrol Agents that achieving turn-backs should supersede our legal and moral duty to ensure that apprehended individuals are ensured due process and are properly screened to see if they are trafficking victims or asylum seekers. This bill will allow free-reign to Border Patrol Agents in a manner that further militarizes the border, undermines accountability and transparency for the largest federal law enforcement force in the country, and threatens to degrade environmental standards and our international protection obligations along the U.S.-Mexico border.

As communities of faith, we support policies that first and foremost seek to protect and lift up the dignity of families, communities, and individuals along our borders. The Arizona Borderlands Protection and Preservation Act does not meet these goals. Rather, it continues the trend of pouring our tax-dollars into piecemeal stopgap measures already proven ineffective, inhumane and wasteful instead of investing in the kind of just immigration reform solutions that would have a long-term benefit to communities on our border and throughout our nation. We strongly urge you to vote "NO" on S. 750, the Arizona Borderlands Protection and Preservation Act.

Sincerely,

## National Faith-Based Organization

African American Ministers In Action  
Alliance of Baptists  
American Friends Service Committee  
Bread for the World  
Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Disciples Refugee & Immigration Ministries  
Church of the Brethren, Office of Public Witness  
Columban Center for Advocacy and Outreach  
Conference of Benedictine Prioresses  
Conference of Major Superiors of Men  
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America  
Franciscan Action Network  
Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration  
Friends Committee On National Legislation  
HSOSF, Justice and Peace Office  
Ignatian Solidarity Network  
Jesuit Conference, National Advocacy Office of the Jesuits of the United States  
Justice for Immigrants  
Leadership Team of Felician Sisters of North America  
Maryknoll Office for Global Concerns  
Medical Mission Sisters  
Missionary Servants of the Most Holy Trinity  
National Justice for Our Neighbors  
NETWORK, A National Catholic Social Justice Lobby  
Our Lady of Victory Missionary Sisters  
Pax Christi USA  
Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Sisters Adorers  
Sisters of Charity of Leavenworth  
Sisters of Mercy of Holy Cross, USA Province  
Sisters of Mercy of the Americas  
Sisters of Saint Francis, Oldenburg  
Sisters of St. Francis of the Neumann Communities  
Sojourners

Union of Sisters of the Presentation of the B.V.M. - US Province  
United Church of Christ  
United Methodist Church, General Board of Church and Society  
United Methodist Women, Immigrant/Civil Rights Initiative

## Regional Faith-Based Organization

Ainsworth United Church of Christ  
Breaking the Silence  
Carmelites Sisters of Charity - Vedruna  
Christ the King Catholic Church  
Christian Fellowship Congregational Church UCC  
Congregation of St. Joseph, Immigration Committee  
Congregation of St. Joseph, Justice Team  
Diocese of Joliet  
Dominican Sisters of Adrian  
Dominican Sisters, Grand Rapids  
Franciscans for Justice  
Friends of Palestine, Wisconsin  
Good Shepherd Parish Immigration Study Group, JFI  
Intercommunity Peace & Justice Center  
Interfaith Center for Worker Justice of San Diego County  
Interfaith Movement for Human Integrity  
Interfaith Movement for Immigrant Justice, New Sanctuary Movement  
Jesuits of the California & Oregon Provinces  
Jesuits of the United States, Central and Southern Province  
Maryland Province of the Society of Jesus  
New Sanctuary Movement NYC  
Northeast Iowa Peace & Justice Center  
Racine Interfaith Coalition  
Saint Luke Presbyterian Church, Wayzata, MN  
San Diego Center for Worker Justice  
School Sisters of Notre Dame, Atlantic-Midwest Province  
Sisters of Loretto  
Sisters of Mercy West Midwest Justice Team  
Sisters of Mercy, South Central Community  
Sisters of St. Francis of Philadelphia, Advocacy for Justice and Peace Committee  
Society of Jesus (Chicago-Detroit)  
Society of Jesus (Wisconsin)  
The Green Valley/Sahuarita Samaritans  
Together Colorado  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the Lowcountry  
United Methodist  
USA Northeast Province of the Society of Jesus

## Arizona-Based Faith Leaders and Faith Organizations

Ahmad Shqeirat, Imam, Tempe Islamic Center  
Capilla del Sol Christian Church, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Church Women United in Arizona  
Dr. Sterling Vinson, Ph.D., Southside Presbyterian  
Father Bill Remmel, SDS, Roman Catholic  
Fr. Ernest Galaz, Rector, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Nogales  
K. Kay Bircher, Chaplain, Roman Catholic  
Karen Richter, Shadow Rock United Church of Christ  
Kino Border Initiative  
Lucy Nigh, SSND, School Sisters of Notre Dame  
Mark Adams, US Coordinator, Frontera de Cristo  
Martin Tapia, Pastor, Iglesia Alas de Salvacion Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Gilbert  
Karl Hallsten, SWC UCC  
Nancy Linthicum, Good Shepherd UCC  
Pastor Alison Harrington, Southside Presbyterian Church  
Pastor Dan R. Johnson, Evangelical Covenant Church  
Pastor Jim Dew, Santa Cruz Lutheran Church  
Reverend Abigail Conley, Pastor, Chalice Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Reverend Ailsa R. Guardiola Gonzalez, First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)  
Reverend Andy Burnette, Valley Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Reverend Dr. John M. Fife, Presbyterian Church (USA)  
Reverend Dr. Randy J. Mayer  
Reverend Eric Ledermann, University Presbyterian Church  
Reverend Jacqueline Ziegler, Granite Peak Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Reverend Joanne Giannino, Beacon Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
Reverend Kenneth Heintzelman, Shadow Rock United Church of Christ  
Reverend Lori Tapia, Iglesia Alas de Salvacion, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ), Gilbert  
Reverend Rebekah Krevens, Christian Church (DOC)  
Reverend Susan Frederick-Gray, Lead Minister, Unitarian Universalist  
The Good Shepherd United Church of Christ, Senior Minister  
United Church of Christ, Southwest Conference, Conference Minister