

Be it remembered that at a special meeting of the Luna County Board of County Commissioners in Deming New Mexico, on the 8th day of March, 2019, the following proceedings were had and entered of record.

RESOLUTION #19-14

**SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENTIAL DECLARATION OF A
NATIONAL EMERGENCY CONCERNING
THE SOUTHERN BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES**

WHEREAS, Section 4-37-1, NMSA 1978, grants Counties the powers necessary to provide for the safety, preserve the health, promote prosperity and improve morals, order, comfort and convenience in the county and for its inhabitants; and

WHEREAS, Section 4-38-18, NMSA 1978, provides that the Board of County Commissioners has the power to represent the County and to manage the interest of the County; and

WHEREAS, Luna County is one of three New Mexico counties forming the 180-mile border with the Republic of Mexico, 60 miles of which is located in Luna County; and

WHEREAS, the border separating the United States of America and the Republic of Mexico is the most frequently crossed international boundary in the world; and,

WHEREAS, the threat presented by illegal crossing is not limited to Luna County but the severity and longevity of the problem is well illustrated by the March 9, 1916 raid of Columbus, New Mexico by Pancho Villa which garnered him 300 guns, 80 horses and 30 mules along with other personal property at the cost of the lives of as many as 19 American soldiers and citizens; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the continuing threat to human life, crime flourishes along the border and there are huge financial costs associated with illegal border crossings are borne by the counties situated on that border, including property damage and loss, the expense of law enforcement efforts and the costs of services and benefits to both the victims and illegal border crossers; and

WHEREAS, other than millions of dollars spent at legal crossing points and ports of entry, the physical state of the border since that time remains largely unchanged and the few efforts to address it that have been ineffective with the border remaining largely unsecured and, as a result, the threat posed to the health, safety and welfare of the citizens of Luna County remains unabated; and

WHEREAS, repeated declarations of emergency, such as the one by Governor Bill Richardson in 2005, to more recent pleas for help, such as that of Hidalgo County Manager Tisha Green, have, until now, been ignored and gone largely unheeded by both the state and federal government; and

WHEREAS, the 2010 murder of Robert Krentz, in Cochise County, Arizona; a 2008 incursion of Mexican military personnel into Pima County, Arizona; a 2010 incursion by Mexico police into El Paso County, Texas; and the numerous continuing raids onto the property and into the homes of residents in Hidalgo County, New Mexico, have likewise had no effect on efforts to secure the border; and

WHEREAS, on February 15, 2019, the President of the United States declared a National Emergency along the southern border; and

WHEREAS, despite this Declaration, the majority of National Guard troops previously deployed to the border still remain recalled by the Governor of the State of New Mexico and the Attorney General of the State of New Mexico, with the support and encouragement of the Governor, committed public money to join 15 other states in a lawsuit challenging the Declaration seeking to block the diversion of federal funds to border security; and,

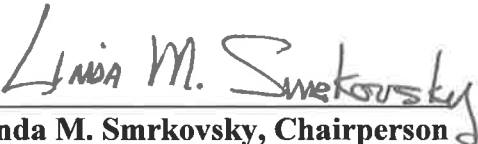
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County, by the authority granted under the Constitution and Laws of the State of New Mexico and people of Luna County, New Mexico, declares its support for National Emergency Declaration along the southern border of the United States of America.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of County Commissioners of Luna County further declares its support for any and all efforts to secure the border and calls upon its statewide elected officials and representatives to set aside the polarizing partisan dialogue and the waste of public money opposing such efforts and to, instead, focus their efforts and resources on addressing the threats to public health, safety and welfare of our citizens resulting from an unsecured border and the resulting illegal crossings and to meaningfully and effectively aid and assist Luna County and other local government entities in doing the same.

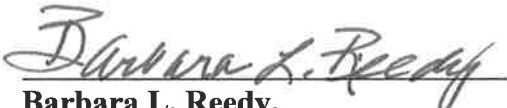
Done at Deming, New Mexico this 8th day of March, 2019

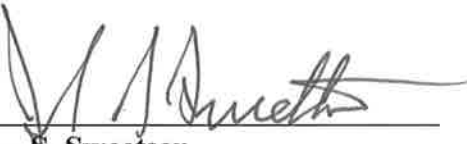
Luna County Board of County Commissioners

ATTEST:


Linda M. Smrkovsky, Chairperson
Commissioner, District 2


Andrea Rodriguez, County Clerk


Barbara L. Reedy,
Commissioner, District 1


John S. Sweetser,
Commissioner, District 3

