



TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER SID MILLER

April 12, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor of Texas
PO Box 12428
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Governor Abbott,

On behalf of the people of Texas and the United States, I call on you to immediately halt your policy of conducting safety inspections on commercial vehicles entering Texas from Mexico using Texas Department of Public Safety Troopers.

This misguided policy will have little or no impact on the invasion on our southern border caused by the inaction of the Biden Administration. Instead, this policy will hurt Texas and American consumers by driving up already sky rocketing food prices, worsening ongoing supply chain disruptions, causing massive produce shortages, and saddling Texas and American companies with untold losses.

If your policy continues, within the next week, I predict that Texas consumers will be paying two dollars for a lime and five dollars for an avocado. The following week, Texas produce shelves will be empty – for the third time because of policies implemented by your administration.

Your inspection protocol is not stopping illegal immigration. It is stopping food from getting to grocery store shelves and in many cases causing food to rot in trucks – many of which are owned by Texas and other American companies. It is simply political theater. The people of Texas deserve better!

The President's failed border policy does not need to be enhanced by a state policy that does little or nothing to impact illegal immigration. Officials with the United States Border Patrol and Customs and Border Protections already conduct extensive inspections of commercial vehicles entering the United States at Texas border crossings. Resources should be placed where illegal crossings take place, not to create a crisis where they do not.

Every hour this policy remains in place costs consumers more money, creates huge economic losses for Texas companies, and will, most certainly, lead to empty grocery store shelves. This misguided policy is also stopping businesses trying to export into Mexico, our largest trading partner, because of the stoppage of traffic both north and south. There are already reports of more than 20,000 commercial trucks backed up on the border, many of them refrigerated and carrying fragile produce that will soon be in ruin.

I am hearing from consumers, businesses, and farmers and ranchers throughout Texas and the U.S. about the negative impact caused by your economy killing action. You cannot solve a border crisis by creating another crisis!

For over seven years, my team at the Texas Department of Agriculture and I have worked diligently to improve relations with our Mexican trading partners to increase the sale of Texas agriculture commodities and other Texas made products. Instead of hurting the cartels, your policy hurts the efforts of dedicated Texan and Mexican government officials who have worked diligently to enhance cooperative efforts with our state's largest trading partner.

As you know, I was the first Texas statewide Republican official to endorse Donald J. Trump for President of the United States in 2016 and to fully embrace his call for a border wall with Mexico. There has been no stronger advocate for securing our border with Mexico and stopping illegal immigration. This policy does neither.

Again, on behalf of Texas, the United States, and our trading partners, immediately stop the inspection of commercial vehicles by Texas State Troopers and use those resources where they can have an impact.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Sid Miller". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Sid Miller
Commissioner of Agriculture