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"Construction of a security fence is a critical step in the fight to gain control of our southern border. Our porous borders are being exploited by illegal aliens, drug traffickers, human smugglers, and even terrorists. The 700 miles of fencing along with the vehicle barriers and surveillance technology included in this bill will be a vital infrastructure upgrade along the border that will help stop these illegal crossings."

"Much debate remains about many of the broader issues related to illegal immigration. Amnesty and other ill-conceived proposals will only lead to more illegal immigration in the future. We must address border security and improve enforcement mechanisms before we consider expanding legal immigration. Although the House and Senate disagree on the overall approach, I am glad to see Republicans in both chambers working together to address a point on which we both agree."

"Obviously there is much more that needs to be done to fully address illegal immigration. This bill is a significant victory for those of us who are deeply concerned about this issue. But it is just one of the many bricks that must be put in place to build a broad immigration enforcement strategy."

Some highlights of H.R. 6061, the Secure Fence Act of 2006, are:

- Providing for 700 miles of reinforced fencing along the southern border, with the priority being in highly populated areas.
- Providing for additional "virtual fence" features such as cameras, ground sensors,

unmanned aerial vehicles, and other surveillance technology along the rest of the border.

- Requiring an evaluation of the infrastructure needs along the northern border."**