



May 4, 2023

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I request that the Department of Homeland Security do everything in its power to maintain transparency and open lines of communication with local officials in towns and counties along the southern border. As Title 42 lifts next week, it will be more important than ever to have in place a cohesive and responsive government strategy to address a potential influx of migrants. This will not be possible without local coordination.

In recent conversations with border towns mayors and county officials in Arizona, I have heard repeated concerns about a lack of information around federal government policy that directly impacts Arizonans, our communities, and our local economies. Some of these concerns include:

- Confusion around new administration policy on migrant processing prioritization based on national origin, requests for asylum, and combinations thereof.
- Limited notification of what resources, personnel, and Department of Defense personnel will be sent to their area.
- An inability to share complaints, concerns, and critical observations with federal officials.

While the federal government plays a central role in all actions along our southern border, it is critical that the Department is receptive to feedback from those that live along the border itself. Not only is it the correct thing to do, but it will better inform our responses, policies, and resource allocations.

I look forward to your reply, and to hearing about your plans for responding to the end of Title 42 more generally.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ruben Gallego".

Ruben Gallego
Member of Congress