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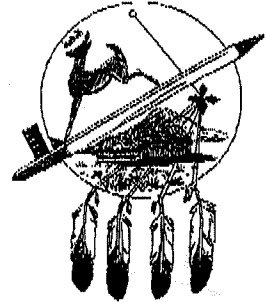
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KICKAPOO

**TRADITIONAL
TRIBE OF TEXAS**
Administrative Office



H C I, Box 9700, Eagle Pass, Texas 78852
(830) 773-2105 (830) 758-8010
Fax (830) 757-9228

Oct 13,2008

I, Eric Anico, a member of the Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas, hereby make this statement of my opposition to the border wall because it will violate the rights of our tribal members in a number of ways.

First, the construction of the wall will cut off our access to a significant portion of our communally-held tribal lands.

Notably, it will cut off access to the Rio Grande River, an important cultural, religious and spiritual site for Kickapoo. For example, during the Kickapoo New Year in between January and February, people go to the river to offer a prayers. Also the Kickapoo believe that all species of life have spirits and therefore are sacred. We go to the river and offer a tobacco for the spirits which carry the prayers to the Creator. I myself go to the river several times of the year to offer a prayers.

We use parts of the animals in the river for our ceremonial objects, such as the rattles which are made with teeth of the drumfish. this fish, as far as I know, cannot be obtain anywhere but the river. We also use the plants from the banks of the river, for example, we use the carrizo canes, which only grow on the river bank of the river, to build our ceremonial houses.

If the wall cuts off our free access to the river, we will lose not only our current activities and cultural practices, but our potential future economic activities, For example, we had hope of using boating on the river to promote tourism and build the economic development of the area. We have plans to build a motel on the tribal land to make it easier for people to visit our casino, and one proposal is to have boats take guests back and fourth between the hotel and the casino. The border wall would limit our ability to engage in these types of economic developments.

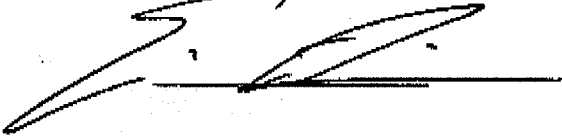
The border wall will also cut off access to a burial ground very near the river . These burial grounds are relatively new, in use since the establishment of the reservation in about 1989, and some tribal members have relatives recently buried there. I have an infant sister buried there. I am very concerned that the construction of the wall may disturb the remains. Further, the wall will impede our access to the site and our ability to continue to bury our dead there.

The wall would also harm migratory animals which the Kickapoo need. For example, the deer is incorporated in our religion and we hunt deer (permitted tribal property) and use deer parts such

as ribs in our naming ceremonies. If the deer cannot migrate freely, there will be less and less of them, and this will make it difficult for us to continue our current cultural practices.

Finally, Kickapoo migrate back and fourth between our communal land property in Mexico and in the United States, spending time in winter and summer months in Mexico for cultural events returning to United States to work. It is not clear how the wall construction will effect our ability to maintain our traditional way of life.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of several large, sweeping strokes that are difficult to decipher. The signature is written over a horizontal line.