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Senator César J. Blanco Announces Funding to Compensate Ranchers & Farmers for Property Damage From Border Crimes

Austin, Texas – Today, the Texas Senate adopted House Bill 1, the Senate version of the state budget, which includes \$25 million to fund a program created under Senate Bill 1133 by Senator Blanco.

Senate Bill 1133 establishes a program under the Office of the Attorney General to help farmers and ranchers who suffer property damage as a result of border-related trafficking and smuggling crimes. SB1133 unanimously passed the Senate last week.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

"With increased trafficking and smuggling along the Texas border and in rural communities, ranchers and farmers have reported significant financial losses and property damage to their fences, crops, livestock, equipment, and other property.

"I filed SB1133 to relieve our hard-working farmers and ranchers of the financial burden of costly repairs, allowing them to continue putting food on the table for families across America. This funding is the culmination of months of collaboration with the Senate Committee on Finance, and I am pleased to have secured this funding in the Senate version of the state budget."

For further information, please contact Taylor Sanchez at 915-276-3872 or <u>Taylor.Sanchez@senate.texas.gov</u>.

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