



Press Release
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Senator César J. Blanco and Senator Lois Kolkhorst File Bipartisan Landowner Compensation Legislation

Austin, Texas – Today, Senator César J. Blanco (SD29) and Senator Lois Kolkhorst (SD18) filed Senate Bill 1133 to establish a grant 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.

Senator Blanco issued the following statement:

“With increased trafficking and drug smuggling activity 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. This bill would provide farmers and ranchers in border and rural counties much-needed relief from the damages caused by trafficking, smuggling, and bail-outs on their personal property.”

Senator Kolkhorst issued the following statement:

Senate Kolkhorst added, “Throughout my travels across Senate District 18, I consistently hear from landowners, farmers, and ranchers who have experienced devastating damage and property losses due to border bailouts. Many of these landowners have no mechanism to be reimbursed for their property losses, and it is severely impacting their farming and ranching operations. Despite the federal government’s lack of response to the flood of immigrants crossing the border, Texas legislators from both parties are stepping up and responding to the needs of our constituents. That’s why I am so pleased to joint-author SB 1133 with Senator Blanco in a bipartisan effort to serve our hard-working farmers and ranchers who have suffered property damage through no fault of their own.”

Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) issued the following statement:

"As private property owners, ranchers are often responsible for damages and expenses incurred from trespassers and criminal acts on their land. This reality exists throughout the state and is



especially prominent along the border right now. TSCRA appreciates Senator Blanco and Senator Kolkhorst’s attention to the difficulties ranchers face and are thankful for their work to provide relief to landowners. We look forward to working with both Senators and their respective offices on this issue.”

Russell Boening, President of the Texas Farm Bureau also issued the following statement:

“With the unprecedented influx of migrants at our southern borders, farm, and ranch families are bearing the brunt of damaged crops and property. The Texas Farm Bureau is grateful to Senator Blanco, Senator Kolkhorst, and other authors for addressing this issue and gathering bipartisan support to protect our farmers and ranchers.”

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