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Senator César J. Blanco Passes Bipartisan Legislation to Provide Financial Assistance to Ranchers & Farmers

Austin, Texas – Today, the Texas House of Representatives unanimously passed Senate Bill 1133, to establish a program under the Office of the Attorney General to help farmers and ranchers who suffer property damage because of border-related bailouts, human trafficking, and smuggling crimes. This bill now heads to the Governor for final approval.

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."

<u>Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) issued the following statement:</u>

"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."

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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