



SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization

Serving our member governments and their constituents since 1972

RESOLUTION NO. 2014-01

A RESOLUTION OF THE SOUTHEASTERN ARIZONA GOVERNMENTS ORGANIZATION SUPPORTING THE EXTENSION OF THE BORDER ZONE IN ARIZONA

SEAGO Member Entities

Cochise County

Benson

Bisbee

Douglas

Huachuca City

Sierra Vista

Tombstone

Willcox

Graham County

Pima

Safford

San Carlos

Apache Tribe

Thatcher

Greenlee County

Clifton

Duncan

Santa Cruz County

Nogales

Patagonia

WHEREAS, the regional planning agencies throughout Arizona, including the Central Arizona Governments (CAG), Central Yavapai Metropolitan Planning Organization (CYMPO), Flagstaff Metropolitan Planning Organization (FMPO), Maricopa Association of Governments (MAG), Northern Arizona Council of Governments (NACOG), Pima Association of Governments (PAG), SouthEastern Arizona Governments Organization (SEAGO), Western Arizona Council of Governments (WACOG), and Yuma Metropolitan Planning Organization (YMPO), and other regional planning agencies and Native American Communities that may wish to join in this effort, hereinafter referred to as the Regional Planning Agencies, desire to advocate for the extension of the authorized border zone for Border Crossing Cards (BCC) to include all of Arizona, and for the streamlining of the Mexican Visa process; and

WHEREAS, Mexican visitors traveling into the United States through the land border ports of entry use the Border Crossing Card, which allows for frequent, low-risk Mexican citizens to visit border communities for a period of up to 30 days, and remain within the "border zone," which is no more than 25 miles beyond the border, and 75 miles if entering through selected ports in Arizona, limiting the opportunity for tourism and economic development throughout our state; and

WHEREAS, the proposed border zone extension would allow BCC holders to travel to world-class destinations such as the Grand Canyon – one of the Seven Natural Wonders of the World – and other state and federal parks, stimulating tourism throughout Arizona, and expanding the travel zone to include these tourist destinations will translate into greater economic benefits from residents from Mexico traveling to Arizona for leisure, shopping, conducting business, and visiting family; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that \$7.3 million is spent each day in Arizona by Mexican visitors, and more than 65,000 Mexican residents travel to Arizona each day for business, leisure and recreation; and

WHEREAS, Mexico is the 14th largest economy according to the International Monetary Fund, a member of the G-20 economies, and the 11th most populous country, with 17 percent of Mexico's population of 112 million inhabitants joining the middle class in the last decade, representing market opportunities for U.S. exports-oriented industries; and

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WHEREAS, in the spirit of the 2012 Executive Order, the proposed extension of the border zone in Arizona will provide significant economic benefits to many communities, especially in rural Arizona, while maintaining ample safeguards to prevent undocumented entry into the United States, and

WHEREAS, due to the necessity to act immediately, the Regional Planning Agencies noted in this resolution understand that other governmental and nonprofit economic development organizations will be joining in supporting this resolution.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED as follows:

That it is the intent of the respective Regional Planning Agencies to work cooperatively to jointly advocate to the Arizona Congressional Delegation and the Department of Homeland Security for the extension of Arizona's border zone, authorized for holders of Border Crossing Cards, to include the entire state of Arizona, and to jointly support the streamlining of the Mexican visa process to be more effective in enabling both business travelers and tourists to cross the border.

Passed and adopted by the SEAGO Executive Board on this 28th day of February 2014.



Randy Heiss, Executive Director
SouthEastern Arizona
Governments Organization



Rudy Molera, Chair
Executive Board