

# SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 15

Senators Barrett, Bumstead, MacDonald, Lucido, Theis, McBroom, Outman, Nesbitt, LaSata, Horn, Runestad, Zorn and VanderWall offered the following resolution:

1       A resolution to urge the federal government to provide  
2 durable, permanent, and meaningful security at our nation's  
3 borders.

4       Whereas, The integrity of our nation's borders is essential to  
5 peace, order, and stability. Without borders, a country cannot  
6 exist; and

7       Whereas, The extensive length of our borders and the status of  
8 our nation create challenges in maintaining the integrity of our  
9 borders. The United States has approximately 6,900 miles of inland  
10 border—1,900 along the Mexican border and 5,000 along the Canadian  
11 border—and 95,000 miles of shoreline. Our strong economy, quality

1 of life, and leadership in the world make the United States both a  
2 desired destination for immigrants seeking better opportunities and  
3 a target for people seeking to exploit or harm our way of life; and

4       Whereas, Border threats and security are not limited to our  
5 country's southern borders. There were 18 joint operations along  
6 our northern border in 2017, and 24 projected for 2018, to ensure  
7 legal trade and travel, while mitigating border security threats,  
8 including illicit activity by criminal organizations. In Michigan,  
9 there are 13 sensors covering 35 miles of the St. Clair River to  
10 monitor border activity; and

11       Whereas, Structures along our border, in concert with other  
12 efforts, are an effective and demonstrated deterrent to illegal  
13 border crossings and the crime, drugs, and smuggling associated  
14 with those crossings. In some areas where these structures have  
15 been built, there has been a 91 percent reduction in apprehensions,  
16 a far larger drop than in areas without structures, as well as a  
17 drop in nearby criminal activity. These structures will continue to  
18 be a deterrent for years to come, and the construction of  
19 structures is a vital component of future border security; and

20       Whereas, Current funding levels are not adequate to take the  
21 actions needed to secure our borders; and

22       Whereas, The dedicated men and women tasked with protecting  
23 our borders need our full support. Every day, they work tirelessly  
24 to facilitate lawful travel, trade, and immigration while  
25 preventing terrorists and terrorist weapons, illegal aliens,  
26 smugglers, and narcotics from moving across our borders; now,  
27 therefore, be it

28       Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the federal government to  
29 fund border security at an appropriate level to keep our country

1 safe and provide durable, permanent, and meaningful security at our  
2 nation's borders; and be it further

3       Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the  
4 President of the United States, the President of the United States  
5 Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives,  
6 and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.