

targeted to the Task Force's role in coordination with executive departments and agencies (agencies), and the private sector, to assist in showcasing the Nation's pride and hospitality while promoting economic growth, safety and security, and tourism through the events surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The Commission is housed in the Department of Homeland Security, which shall provide funding and administrative support for the Commission. This Notice is not a solicitation for membership.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:**  
Michelle Nordman, Director of Operations, White House Task Force, FIFA World Cup 2026, U.S. Department of Homeland Security at [WorldCupCommission@hq.dhsgov](mailto:WorldCupCommission@hq.dhsgov) (202) 357-1232.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Secretary is establishing the Board pursuant to section 871(a) of the *Homeland Security Act of 2002*. In recognition of the sensitive nature of the subject matter involved regarding the assessment and mitigation of security and operational risks through whole-of-government coordination, and strong partnership with the private sector that is required to conduct a large-scale international sports event in the United States, the Secretary hereby exempts the Commission from The Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. Ch. 10, in accordance with 6 U.S.C. 451(a).

The Commission is an advisory body made of Commissioners that provide information, advice, and recommendations to the White House Task Force on the FIFA World Cup 2026 ("Task Force") through the Executive Director of the Task Force. The Commission's advice and recommendations are to be specific, actionable, timely, strategic, and targeted to the Task Force's role in coordination with executive departments and agencies (agencies), and the private sector, to assist in showcasing the Nation's pride and hospitality while promoting economic growth, safety and security, and tourism through the events surrounding the 2026 FIFA World Cup. The Commission is housed in the Department of Homeland Security, which shall provide funding and administrative support for the Commission.

The duties of the Commission are solely advisory in nature and shall extend only to the submission of advice, recommendations, and reports to the Task Force, through the Executive Director.

**Membership:** The Commission shall be composed of Commissioners who are

appointed by the Executive Director to represent the vital sectors of private industry who are engaged in showcasing the Nation's pride and hospitality while promoting economic growth, safety and security, and tourism through the FIFA World Cup 2026. The Executive Director of the Task Force will appoint a Chair and Vice Chair of the Commission from among the Commissioners.

The Commission Members serve for the duration of the Commission. Vacancies are filled as soon as highly qualified candidates in a needed area of expertise, sector, or perspective are identified and available to serve. In the event the Commission's charter terminates, all appointments to the Commission shall terminate.

Commissioners are appointed to provide the views and perspectives of specific interests and will serve as Representatives. Commissioners shall not serve as Special Government Employees as defined in 18 U.S.C. 202(a).

The Executive Director of the Task Force may appoint, as deemed necessary, non-voting subject matter experts (SMEs) to assist the Commission or its subcommittees on an ad hoc basis. These non-voting SMEs are not members of the Commission or its subcommittees and will not engage or participate in any deliberations by the Commission or its subcommittees. These non-voting SMEs, if not full-time or permanent part-time Federal officers or employees, will be appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3109 on an intermittent basis to address specific issues under consideration by the Commission.

Commissioners will serve without additional compensation. Travel expenses will be allowed, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, as authorized by law for persons serving intermittently in the Government service (5 U.S.C. 5701-5707), consistent with the availability of funds.

**Subcommittees:** At the request of the Executive Director of the Task Force, the Designated Federal Officer may establish subcommittees for any purpose consistent with the Charter. Subcommittees may be composed of Commissioners, non-Commissioners, and regular government employees, at the discretion of the Executive Director of the Task Force.

**Duration:** The Commission shall terminate on December 26, 2026.

**Michael J. Miron,**  
Committee Management Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

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## DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

### Office of the Secretary

#### Determination Pursuant to Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, as Amended

**AGENCY:** Office of the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security.

**ACTION:** Notice of determination.

**SUMMARY:** The Secretary of Homeland Security has determined, pursuant to law, that it is necessary to waive certain laws, regulations, and other legal requirements in order to ensure the expeditious construction of barriers and roads in the vicinity of the international land border in the state of Texas.

**DATES:** This determination takes effect on November 25, 2025.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** Important mission requirements of the Department of Homeland Security ("DHS") include border security and the detection and prevention of illegal entry into the United States. Border security is critical to the nation's national security. Recognizing the critical importance of border security, Congress has mandated DHS to achieve and maintain operational control of the international land border. Secure Fence Act of 2006, Public Law 109-367, section 2, 120 Stat. 2638 (Oct. 26, 2006) (8 U.S.C. 1701 note). Congress defined "operational control" as the prevention of all unlawful entries into the United States, including entries by terrorists, other unlawful aliens, instruments of terrorism, narcotics, and other contraband. *Id.* Consistent with that mandate, the President's Executive Order on Securing Our Borders directs that I take all appropriate action to deploy and construct physical barriers to ensure complete operational control of the southern border of the United States. Executive Order 14165, section 3 (Jan. 20, 2025).

Congress has provided to the Secretary of Homeland Security a number of authorities necessary to carry out DHS's border security mission. One of those authorities is found at section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, as amended ("IIRIRA"). Public Law 104-208, Div. C, 110 Stat. 3009-546, 3009-554 (Sept. 30, 1996) (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by the REAL ID Act of 2005, Public Law 109-13, Div. B, 119 Stat. 231, 302, 306 (May 11, 2005) (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by the Secure Fence Act of 2006, Public Law 109-367, section 3, 120 Stat. 2638 (Oct.

26, 2006) (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2008, Public Law 110–161, Div. E, Title V, section 564, 121 Stat. 2090 (Dec. 26, 2007). In section 102(a) of IIRIRA, Congress provided that the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be necessary to install additional physical barriers and roads (including the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal entrants) in the vicinity of the United States border to deter illegal crossings in areas of high illegal entry into the United States. In section 102(b) of IIRIRA, Congress mandated that in carrying out the authority of section 102(a), I provide for the installation of additional fencing, barriers, roads, lighting, cameras, and sensors to achieve and maintain operational control of the border. Finally, in section 102(c) of IIRIRA, Congress granted to the Secretary of Homeland Security the authority to waive all legal requirements that I, in my sole discretion, determine necessary to ensure the expeditious construction of barriers and roads authorized by section 102 of IIRIRA.

## Determination and Waiver

### Section 1

The United States Border Patrol El Paso Sector is an area of high illegal entry. Between fiscal year 2021 and July 2025, Border Patrol apprehended over 1,229,400 illegal aliens attempting to enter the United States between border crossings in the El Paso Sector. In that same time period Border Patrol seized over 14,468 pounds of marijuana, over 1,347 pounds of cocaine, over 42 pounds of heroin, over 3,086 pounds of methamphetamine, and over 254 pounds of fentanyl.

Since the President took office, DHS has delivered the most secure border in history. More can and must be done, however. As the statistics cited above demonstrate, the El Paso Sector is an area of high illegal entry where illegal aliens regularly attempt to enter the United States and smuggle illicit drugs, and given my mandate to achieve and maintain operational control of the border, I must use my authority under section 102 of IIRIRA to install additional barriers and roads in the El Paso Sector. Therefore, DHS will take immediate action to construct additional barriers and roads in a segment of the border in the El Paso Sector. The segment where such construction will occur is referred to herein as the “project area,” which is

more specifically described in Section 2 below.

### Section 2

I determine that the following area in the vicinity of the United States border, located in the State of Texas within the U. S. Border Patrol El Paso Sector, is an area of high illegal entry (the “project area”): Starting at approximately the Texas-New Mexico State Line and extending south and east along the Rio Grande River to approximately GPS point 31.03, –105.57.

There is presently an acute and immediate need to construct additional physical barriers and roads in the vicinity of the border of the United States in order to prevent unlawful entries into the United States in the project area pursuant to section 102(a) and 102(b) of IIRIRA. In order to ensure the expeditious construction of additional physical barriers and roads in the project area, I have determined that it is necessary that I exercise the authority that is vested in me by section 102(c) of IIRIRA.

Accordingly, pursuant to section 102(c) of IIRIRA, I hereby waive in their entirety, with respect to the construction of physical barriers and roads (including, but not limited to, accessing the project areas, creating and using staging areas, the conduct of earthwork, excavation, fill, and site preparation, and installation and upkeep of physical barriers, roads, supporting elements, drainage, erosion controls, safety features, lighting, cameras, and sensors) in the project area, all of the following statutes, including all federal, state, or other laws, regulations, and legal requirements of, deriving from, or related to the subject of, the following statutes, as amended: The National Environmental Policy Act (Pub. L. 91–190, 83 Stat. 852 (Jan. 1, 1970) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*)); the Endangered Species Act (Pub. L. 93–205, 87 Stat. 884 (Dec. 28, 1973) (16 U.S.C. 1531 *et seq.*)); the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (commonly referred to as the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. 1251 *et seq.*)); the National Historic Preservation Act (Pub. L. 89–665, 80 Stat. 915 (Oct. 15, 1966), as amended, repealed, or replaced by Pub. L. 113–287 (Dec. 19, 2014) (formerly codified at 16 U.S.C. 470 *et seq.*, now codified at 54 U.S.C. 100101 note and 54 U.S.C. 300101 *et seq.*)); the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. 703 *et seq.*); the Migratory Bird Conservation Act (16 U.S.C. 715 *et seq.*); the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 *et seq.*); the Archeological Resources Protection Act (Pub. L. 96–95 (16 U.S.C.

470aa *et seq.*)); the Paleontological Resources Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470aaa *et seq.*); the Federal Cave Resources Protection Act of 1988 (16 U.S.C. 4301 *et seq.*); the National Trails System Act (16 U.S.C. 1241 *et seq.*); the Safe Drinking Water Act (42 U.S.C. 300f *et seq.*); the Noise Control Act (42 U.S.C. 4901 *et seq.*); the Solid Waste Disposal Act, as amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (42 U.S.C. 6901 *et seq.*); the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*); the Archaeological and Historic Preservation Act (Pub. L. 86–523, as amended, repealed, or replaced by Pub. L. 113–287 (Dec. 19, 2014) (formerly codified at 16 U.S.C. 469 *et seq.*, now codified at 54 U.S.C. 312502 *et seq.*)); the Antiquities Act (formerly codified at 16 U.S.C. 431 *et seq.* and 16 U.S.C. 431a *et seq.*, now codified 54 U.S.C. 320301 *et seq.*); the Historic Sites, Buildings, and Antiquities Act (formerly codified at 16 U.S.C. 461 *et seq.*, now codified at 54 U.S.C. 320301–320303 & 320101–320106); the Eagle Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 668 *et seq.*); the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C. 3001 *et seq.*); the Administrative Procedure Act (5 U.S.C. 551 *et seq.*); Section 438 of the Energy Independence and Security Act (42 U.S.C. 17094); the National Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (Pub. L. 84–1024 (16 U.S.C. 742a, *et seq.*)); the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (Pub. L. 73–121 (16 U.S.C. 661 *et seq.*)); the Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 U.S.C. 4201 *et seq.*); the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (Pub. L. 94–579 (43 U.S.C. 1701 *et seq.*)); the Wild Horse and Burro Act (16 U.S.C. 1331 *et seq.*); 43 U.S.C. 387; and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act (Pub. L. 90–542 (16 U.S.C. 1281 *et seq.*).

This waiver does not revoke or supersede any other waiver determination made pursuant to section 102(c) of IIRIRA. Such waivers shall remain in full force and effect in accordance with their terms. I reserve the authority to execute further waivers from time to time as I may determine to be necessary under section 102 of IIRIRA.

**Kristi Noem,**

*Secretary of Homeland Security.*

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