



TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE  
COMMISSIONER DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.

November 19, 2024

President-Elect Donald J. Trump  
Mar-a-Lago Club  
1100 South Ocean Boulevard  
Palm Beach, FL 33480

Subject: Texas offering 1,400 acres of land adjacent to the Texas-Mexico Border for construction of deportation facilities

Dear President Trump:

I am writing to formally offer 1,402 acres of land in Starr County, Texas, to be used to construct deportation facilities. The Texas General Land Office (GLO) currently owns a 1,402-acre tract roughly 35 miles west of McAllen, Texas. My office is fully prepared to enter into an agreement with the Department of Homeland Security, Immigration and Customs Enforcement, or the United States Border Patrol to allow a facility to be built for the processing, detention, and coordination of the largest deportation of violent criminals in the nation's history.

As Texas Land Commissioner, I recently acquired this 1,402-acre ranch along the border near Rio Grande City. In less than 24 hours after the purchase on October 23, 2024, I granted a 7,681-foot-long (1.45-mile) easement across the property, allowing our Texas Border Wall to be built. The previous owner had refused to allow the wall to be built and actively blocked law enforcement from accessing the property. Her actions enabled cartel members and violent criminals to sexually abuse migrant women and children on this land for some time.

At my direction, since serving as the head of this agency, the GLO has won several significant victories in the fight to repel cartel activities along our border. Early last year, my office was able to survey several islands in the Rio Grande River and declare them part of the State of Texas, permitting law enforcement to end all human trafficking and drug smuggling operations on them.

The largest of these islands is 170 acres, and before declaring it part of Texas, it had been used as a “no-man’s land” to evade both American and Mexican law enforcement. The island, known as “Fronton Island,” had been deemed by the Texas Military Department (TMD) and Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) as the most dangerous part of the Texas border. Cartel-on-cartel violence broke out almost nightly across the river, including massive firefights with automatic weapons and grenades. The initiative to secure the island, clear it of all brush and vegetation, and install razor wire along the river was named *Operation Flat Top*. During the operation, evidence of trafficking was found, along with weapon caches and even improvised explosive devices (IEDs). *Operation Flat Top* has been a massive success, as all cartel-related activity has dropped to zero since its completion.

I am committed to using every available means at my disposal to gain complete operational security of our border. Please let me know if I can answer any questions you may have.

Thank you for considering my request. I look forward to hearing from you.

May God bless you and continue to bless the United States of America.

For Texas,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Buckingham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DAWN BUCKINGHAM, M.D.  
Commissioner, Texas General Land Office