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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE,
AND TRANSPORTATION

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6125

WEBSITE: <https://commerce.senate.gov>

September 17, 2021

The Honorable Stephen Dickson
Administrator
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Dickson:

The worsening situation on our southern border is a crisis that requires the Biden Administration's attention. Reports suggest that the number of migrants waiting to cross the international bridge into Del Rio, Texas, has swollen precipitously in recent days, underscoring the urgent need for the Administration to respond by securing our border.¹

Disconcerting images showing thousands of migrants waiting under the bridge surfaced on September 16, 2021. I understand that the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) on the same day implemented a two-week Temporary Flight Restriction over the area at the request of Customs and Border Protection, thus preventing drone imaging of the bridge by media outlets unless a waiver is granted.

To ensure that the First Amendment is protected, I expect that the FAA will promptly process any waiver sought by the media, which I understand is standard practice. Given the concerns raised by this matter, I request a briefing with an explanation for implementing this aviation restriction at the Mexican border.

I appreciate your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee

¹ See Alexandra Ulmer, *Thousands of Migrants Converge under Texas Bridge, Posing New Challenge for Biden*, REUTERS (Sept. 17, 2021), <https://www.reuters.com/world/americas/hungry-overwhelmed-texas-town-migrants-slip-back-into-mexico-food-2021-09-16/>.