

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

March 11, 2021

Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy  
H-204, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

Minority Leader McCarthy,

I have learned that you and a group of Republican colleagues will be visiting my district of El Paso, Texas next week.

While you are in El Paso, I encourage you to visit our ports of entry so you can see the need for major infrastructure improvements. These key arteries for commerce see nearly \$1.7 billion of goods and services flowing across the U.S./Mexico border daily and help sustain 5 million jobs throughout the country – in fact, trade with Mexico supports 585,000 jobs in your home state of California alone. If time allows, binational business leaders would be happy to share their ideas and concerns with you, and I'd be delighted to set up those meetings. I hope that after learning about how critical our ports are to the American economy that I can secure your support for investments I'm championing.

I invite you to also visit with the advocates and attorneys who have been working with the immigrant community providing humanitarian assistance to asylum-seekers to better understand the humanitarian perspective. These selfless leaders can tell you that cruelty has not worked as a deterrent and they can provide you with horrific, detailed accounts of the consequences of the previous administration's border and immigration policies. Speaking with law enforcement is important but provides just half the picture. If we are to work on meaningful border and immigration policy, it's important to see the complete picture. My office would be glad to assist with setting up a meeting with advocates.

Finally, as you prepare to come into my district, I would like to remind you that you are visiting a community that has always welcomed the stranger and has provided good will and hospitality to the most vulnerable among us. Over the last four years, as the former President used increasingly racist and xenophobic language that dehumanized immigrants, we learned the painful lesson that those words have consequences. A target was painted on our backs as Donald Trump and many of our own colleagues in Congress chose to fan the flames of anti-immigrant fervor and incite hatred toward our safe and secure border communities. On August 3, 2019, a domestic terrorist confessed that he drove over 10 hours to slaughter Mexicans and immigrants in my community, killing 23 innocent people, seriously injuring dozens, and devastating all of us. The words you and your delegation of members will use to describe the situation, immigrants

and my community have tremendous power. I ask that you never lose sight of that because my district and I will ultimately pay the price.

I am happy to discuss any and all of this with you before you and your colleagues travel to my district.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Veronica Escobar". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Veronica Escobar  
Member of Congress

Cc: Rep. Tony Gonzales (TX-23)