

everyone
Beltrones / Dr. Comonfort

December 17, 1993

The Honorable Manlio Fabio Beltrones
Governor of State of Sonora
Palacio de Gobierno, Planta Alta
Dr. Paliza y Comonfort
Colonia Centenario
83260 Hermosillo, Sonora

Dear Governor Beltrones:

With the passage of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) the states of Arizona and Sonora are uniquely positioned to benefit from the economic growth that will ensue. I have greatly appreciated our relationship on economic development issues in Arizona and Sonora and look forward to enhancing that relationship over the next months and years as NAFTA becomes a reality in our communities.

As you and I have discussed in the past, NAFTA provides a new framework within which to foster, encourage and nurture our common border, economy, culture, and environment. As I have discussed these matters with my staff and other interested parties, and in light of recent information concerning environmental health issues along the border, I have concluded that the State of Arizona must take its future in its own hands with regard to the border environmental and health issues. However, Arizona does not stand alone in this challenge and I look forward to working with you and the State of Sonora in protecting the environment and health of all of our citizens. With this in mind I propose that together we create a bi-national task force to take a comprehensive look at health

and environmental issues along the Arizona/Sonora border. It is my hope that you and I could announce the formation of the task force in early 1994 and that we would appoint co-chairs, one from Mexico and one from Arizona, to lead this locally-directed effort. The underlying goal should be to comprehensively compile all environmental health concerns on both sides of the border and to compile a database of all current efforts and monies presently coming to the border either in Arizona or Sonora to address those issues. The purpose of this effort is to ensure

The Honorable Manlio Fabio Beltrones
December 17, 1993
Page Two

that our scarce resources are being utilized in the most appropriate fashion and to ensure that monies coming from outside of Sonora and Arizona are not being directed toward the border in a way which unnecessarily duplicates efforts.

It is my hope that the Arizona/Mexico Commission could be the umbrella group to direct this effort and that we would be able to work with local governments and citizens' groups to truly make this a bi-national bi-state effort where our citizens who are most impacted by these issues are a part of the process.

If you agree that this effort is wise, I would intend to appoint the following Arizonans to the task force:

Dr. Jack Dillenberg	Director of the Arizona Department of Health Services
Dr. Andy Nichols	Member of Arizona House of Representatives; Arizona Chair of health committee of Arizona/Mexico Commission
Ed Fox	Director of the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality
Richard Carter	Arizona Chair of environmental committee of the Arizona/Mexico Commission
Hank Tintos	Resident of Nogales, President of Chamber of Commerce
Harlan Capin	Chair of border issues committee of the Arizona/ Mexico Commission
Ana Acuna	Founding member of LIFE, resident of Nogales
Patrick Zurich	Santa Cruz County Health Department Director
Elizabeth Ames	Mayor of Douglas, Arizona
Jose Canchola	Mayor of Nogales, Arizona
Amanda Aguirre	Resident of Yuma, Executive Assistant for Western Arizona

Area Health Education, Inc.

John Wise

Environmental Protection Agency

Please let me know if you wish to join me in this effort. If you agree, I would appreciate your appointing 12 committee members that represent your state and citizen groups.

The Honorable Manlio Fabio Beltrones
December 17, 1993
Page Three

I will call you soon to discuss this proposal in more detail.

I hope you and your family have a wonderful holiday.

Very truly yours,

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GOVERNOR

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