

Oral Statement by Jim Chilton

Chilton Ranch, LLC

With regard to The National Security and Federal Lands  
Protection Act

Submitted to

**United States House of Representatives - a joint hearing of the Natural  
Resources Committee and the Oversight and Government Reform Committee**

April 15, 2011

James K. Chilton, Jr.

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My name is Jim Chilton. I am a 5<sup>th</sup> generation Arizona rancher and live near Arivaca, which is approximately 55 miles southwest of Tucson, Arizona. Four miles of the south end of our 50,000-acre ranch is the **international border with Mexico.**

The border is not signed or marked and consists of a five-strand barbed wire fence similar to what one sees along highways. There is no wall and you would never know it was the international border by viewing it. But the cartels know.

We strongly believe the Border Patrol must CONTROL THE BORDER AT THE BORDER, not ten, twenty or 100 miles inside America. We have heard that, a few years ago, the Border Patrol found several backpacks near our ranch which contained Yemeni Passports. Were the owners of the backpacks tourists or terrorists?

It would have been impossible to win World War II if the military had been forced to comply with current laws such as the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act enacted by Congress after World War II. The construction of thousands of military bases, airfields, and port facilities inside the United States would have been delayed for years.

Wouldn't it make sense to CONTROL THE BORDER AT THE BORDER by completing the border fence, establishing functioning 21<sup>st</sup> century communications, installing cameras and sensors, using drones, helicopters, satellites and other proven technologies developed by the military?

The Border Patrol needs to be able to construct roads, helicopter pads and place forward operating bases at or very close to the border free of the impediments created by environmental laws. Federal land managers

must not be allowed to interfere with access to or essential use of Bureau of Land Management, Forest Service, Wildlife Refuges, Wilderness Areas and Park land adjacent to the international border..

Recently, environmental mitigation diversions resulted in \$50 million of Border Patrol funds being transferred to the US Fish & Wildlife Service for alleged environmental damage. The real environmental damage is being caused by drug and people traffickers whose impact is enormously more harmful to the border than that of the Border Patrol.

We are told by the Border Patrol that approximately 20% of the undocumented border crossers have criminal records. Criminals engaged in human and drug transportation find it convenient to use Wildlife Refuges and Wilderness areas as easy corridors to hide and travel. My fellow rancher, Rob Krentz, was murdered with the killer escaping back to Mexico through the San Bernardino National Refuge. Emphatically, we oppose the designation of any and all new Wilderness Areas, Wild Lands or Refuges within 100 miles of the southern border. Such designations are virtual gifts to Mexican drug cartels.

It is outrageous that hundreds of Mexican cartel scouts, with the best binoculars, night vision and encrypted satellite phones, have been found to occupy the tops of mountains near our ranch headquarters and dozens of miles inside Arizona. As a consequence, the foreign cartel scouts know where the Border Patrol is located at all times and can then carefully guide AK-47 gun packing druggers and people smugglers through the mountains and valleys without being spotted.

We have been burglarized twice. Ranchers in the border area can not leave their houses unguarded even for a few hours since their homes are likely to be broken into if someone is not there. We live with weapons near our bed, at the doors, in our vehicles and attached to our saddles.

The Border Patrol must **CONTROL THE BORDER AT THE BORDER** so that citizens' civil rights, property rights and human rights are

protected. Ranchers along the border can not have peace of mind until the border is in fact secured.

**Projects to Benefit Environment on the Southwest Border**

**10/13/2010**

Organ Pipe Cactus NM Biological Opinion	Arizona	\$980,000
San Bernardino Valley Mitigation	Arizona	\$657,480
Rio Yaqui Fish Studies	Arizona	\$441,250
Peninsular Bighorn Sheep Study	California	\$230,000
Coronado NM Agave Restoration	Arizona	\$274,873
Northern Aplomado Falcon Reintroduction and Habitat Restoration	New Mexico	\$499,700
Border-wide Bat Conservation	Arizona	\$925,000
Sasabe Biological Opinion	Arizona	\$2,119,000