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AT&T

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City of Hidalgo

Mayor Joe "Fito" Salinas  
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Judge Mike Doyal  
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Mayor Jim Darling  
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Tax Free Shopping

Judge Efrain Valdez  
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Zapata County

**Committee Chairs**

Olga Gabriel  
Healthcare

Blas Castaneda  
Workforce Development

Monica Weisberg-Stewart  
Immigration &  
Border Security

**Mission:**

***To make legislative  
recommendations to  
help the Texas Border  
Region grow and  
prosper economically.***

July 27, 2015

The Honorable Tano Tijerina  
County Judge, Webb County  
1000 Houston Street, 3rd Floor  
Laredo, TX 78040

In re: TBC update and 2015-16 membership dues

Dear Judge Tijerina:

After our successful summer meeting in South Padre Island a few weeks ago, I'm energized for what our border communities can accomplish when we work together and speak with one voice. The Texas Border Coalition works year-round to maintain our communities and make life here even better and more prosperous. I hope you'll support our work as a 2015-16 TBC member.

Our summer meeting featured dynamic discussions with border leaders from across the region. We heard from Paco Valentin, the Texas State Director of Rural Development for the U.S. Department of Agriculture, who outlined his agency's programs that can increase economic opportunity and improve the quality of life for our region. Our consulting team from Vianovo and our committee chairs presented state and federal updates. And we were honored to host a panel of border legislative leaders - Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. and State Representatives Ryan Guillen, Eddie Lucio III, Armando "Mando" Martinez and Rene Oliveira - moderated by Steve Taylor of the *Rio Grande Guardian*, discussing the 2015 Texas legislative session and their priorities for the interim.

Our TBC Annual Meeting will convene on Thursday, October 1<sup>st</sup>, when we'll be following up on the issues we discussed at South Padre, like transportation infrastructure, militarization of the border and the outlook for cross-border trade, and developing our priorities for the legislative interim.

In addition, all TBC members in good standing as of October 1 will be eligible to participate in the election of our new TBC Chair-Elect, who will lead the coalition when my term concludes in 2017.

Between our in-person meetings, TBC hosts regular conference calls, when we hear updates on legislation and other TBC priorities, and plan for upcoming TBC events. We welcome the participation of border cities, counties, EDCs, Chambers of Commerce and business leaders on these calls, as well as at our quarterly in-person meetings. Our next conference call will be Wednesday, August 19 at 9:00 am CT/8:00 am MT.

The continued success of the Texas Border Coalition depends on our agreement to work together to improve the border region. We have decided to band together to focus on our priority issues of transportation infrastructure, border security and immigration, healthcare and workforce development, and that commitment is our source of strength. We also depend on a smart and efficient staff to serve the common purpose that we pursue. Since Vianovo became our staff, our progress has been steady and substantial.

Despite our many blessings here on the border, the challenges for our region keep coming – and we need your help. By working together and speaking with one voice in Austin and in Washington, DC, we can be more effective in bringing the border region’s perspective into the state and national debate on issues that affect our communities.

To that end, I am enclosing an invoice for 2015-16 dues. I would appreciate your attention to it. Please contact Elizabeth Lippincott at (512) 744-0044 if we can provide you with additional information, or if additional members of your leadership team would like to be included for TBC conference calls and other periodic updates.

Thank you for your leadership on behalf of the border region.

Sincerely,



J.D. Salinas  
Chairman, Texas Border Coalition

*Judge, I hope to count on your advice & leadership!*  
*J.D. Salinas*

**About the Texas Border Coalition**

The Texas Border Coalition (TBC) is a collective voice of border mayors, county judges, economic development commissions focused on issues that affect 2.5 million people along the Texas-Mexico border region and economically disadvantaged counties from El Paso to Brownsville. TBC is working closely with the state and federal government to educate, advocate, and secure funding for transportation, immigration and ports of entry, workforce and education and health care. For more information, visit the coalition website at [www.texasbordercoalition.org](http://www.texasbordercoalition.org).



# INVOICE

**TO:** The Honorable Tano Tijerina  
 County Judge, Webb County  
 1000 Houston Street, 3rd Floor  
 Laredo, TX 78040

**DATE:** July 27, 2015

DESCRIPTION	TOTAL
2015-16 Membership Dues	\$12,515.00
<b>SPECIALLY NEGOTIATED</b> 10% discount	-\$1,251.50
<p><i>How Were My Dues Calculated?</i></p> <p>According to Article 3 of the TBC bylaws, membership dues are calculated based on population. City dues are assessed at ten cents per capita, capped at \$45,000. County dues are assessed at five cents per capita, capped at \$30,000. Economic Development Entities and Chambers of Commerce dues are assessed at \$1,000 for entities with operating areas serving less than 25,000 people, \$2,000 for areas serving 25,000-50,000 and \$3,000 for areas serving over 50,000.</p>	
<b>SUBTOTAL</b>	N/A
<b>SALES TAX</b>	N/A
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$11,263.50</b>

**Make all checks payable to:**

Texas Border Coalition  
 130 E. Travis Street, Ste. 300  
 San Antonio, TX 78205  
 (210) 518-2546 phone / (210) 518-2578 fax

**Thank you for your support!**