

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

September 30, 2023

Greg Abbott
Governor
Office of the Texas Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas, 78711

Ken Paxton
Attorney General
Office of the Attorney General
P.O. Box 12548
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Abbott and Attorney General Paxton,

As you are aware, just north of Houston, an expansion to the massive residential development of Colony Ridge is being undertaken. According to their website, developer “Terrenos Houston” markets owner-financed loans with no credit checks or proof of legal residency, making the location an optimal haven for illegal aliens amid a historic border crisis.¹ This development reportedly has up to 75,000 residents, with a staggering illegal immigrant population, and will soon cover an area of more than 50 square miles.² Due to safety concerns and adverse effects on their way of life, Texas constituents have reached out to Members of Congress about the situation in certain parts of Colony Ridge. We understand that, to date, local attempts to remediate these issues have been unsuccessful.³

¹ “Terrenos Houston.” Terrenos Houston, [terrenoshouston.com/en/home-eng/](https://www.terrenoshouston.com/en/home-eng/); “Hundreds of Concerned Citizens Band Together to Take Action against a Houston Real Estate Company They Say Is Defrauding and Committing Other Crimes against Immigrants and Other At-Risk Communities.” n.d. 24-7 Press Release Newswire. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://www.24-7pressrelease.com/press-release/482459/hundreds-of-concerned-citizens-band-together-to-take-action-against-a-houston-real-estate-company-they-say-is-defrauding-and-committing-other-crimes-against-immigrants-and-other-at-risk-communities>. <https://immigrantsrising.org/resource/individual-tax-identification-number-guide/>

² Meisenheimer, Allie. 2023. “The Fastest Growing Community in Texas.” Dan Patrick, Lieutenant Governor. September 28, 2023. <https://www.danpatrick.org/the-fastest-growing-community-in-texas/>; Wesolek, James. 2023. “Resolution Calling for Action in Colony Ridge.” Republican Party of Texas. September 25, 2023. <https://texasgop.org/colony-ridge/>; “Inside Colony Ridge: The ‘Fastest Growing Development’ in the U.S. Is a Magnet for Illegal Immigrants.” 2023. The Daily Wire. September 17, 2023. <https://www.dailywire.com/news/inside-colony-ridge-the-fastest-growing-development-in-the-u-s-is-a-magnet-for-illegal-immigrants>.

³ Stinnett, Casey. 2015. “Plum Grove Residents and Developers Voice Their Views To...” Chron. August 2, 2015. <https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/dayton/news/article/Plum-Grove-residents-and-developers-voice-their-9724357.php>. <https://abc13.com/liberty-county-texas-bad-conditions/1063411/>; “Residents in One Liberty County Subdivision Living in Bad Conditions.” n.d. ABC13 Houston. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://abc13.com/liberty-county-texas-bad-conditions/1063411/>.

The Colony Ridge development began more than a decade ago just outside of Plum Grove, Texas, in Liberty County.⁴ Observers have indicated it has already doubled the size of its original neighborhood and appears poised for additional expansion. Reports note a lack of safety infrastructure – such as fire hydrants – while concerning living conditions, including improvised housing, water, power, and flooding issues have led many residents and illegal immigration experts to refer to it as a “colonia,” likening it to the unincorporated slums in the U.S.-Mexico border region.⁵

State and local law enforcement officials have reported increases in violent crime throughout the county since new residents, many unlawfully present, have moved into the area, including several high-profile murders, the largest drug busts in the history of Liberty County, and continuous drug cartel activity.⁶ According to these same claims, state and local law enforcement treat this area as an effective “no-go zone,” further heightening the appeal for illegal activity in this development.⁷

In addition to the growing public safety concerns, this development has caused further negative impacts on the local school system.⁸ According to Texas Education Agency records, Cleveland ISD has tripled in size over the previous decade, and much of this is due to the thousands of illegal aliens flocking to Colony Ridge.⁹ In an interview last year with Center for Immigration Studies fellow Todd Bensman, the school district superintendent stated that the district is offering significant stipends and even sponsoring foreign nationals with H1-B guestworker visas to teach due to the lack of Spanish-language teachers for new arrival students.¹⁰

⁴ “PLUM GROVE CITY COUNCIL VOTE to CLOSE ROADS and IMPLEMENT TRAFFIC CONTROL PROCEDURES.” 2020. Montgomery County Police Reporter. August 18, 2020. <https://montgomerycountypolicereporter.com/plum-grove-city-council-vote-to-close-roads-and-implement-traffic-control-procedures/>.

⁵ admin. 2020. “World’s Largest Trailer Park Has Only a Handful of Fire Hydrants.” Reduce Flooding. June 15, 2020. <https://reduceflooding.com/2020/06/15/worlds-largest-trailer-park-has-only-a-handful-of-fire-hydrants/>; “LIBERTY COUNTY LAUNCHES INVESTIGATION of DRAINAGE in CONTROVERSIAL COLONY RIDGE.” 2021. Montgomery County Police Reporter. January 4, 2021. <https://montgomerycountypolicereporter.com/liberty-county-launches-investigation-of-drainage-in-controversial-colony-ridge/>.

⁶ “\$1 Million Meth Bust in Liberty County Could Be Biggest One Ever in County’s History.” 2021. Khou.com. 2021. <https://www.khou.com/article/news/crime/wednesday-meth-bust-in-liberty-county/285-5912957d-366c-40f5-9726-c08e55654ad7>; Texas Mass Shooting Suspect Charged with 5 Counts of Murder.” 2023. Khou.com. 2023. <https://www.khou.com/article/news/crime/texas-shooting-suspect-court/285-37a93ef0-8ede-470d-8b10-b8e641b2e922>; Bensman, Todd. 2023. “Texas Massacre Happened in America’s Largest Illegal Immigrant ‘Colonia’ — and Major U.S. Media Won’t Say So.” CIS.org. May 1, 2023. <https://cis.org/Bensman/Texas-Massacre-Happened-Americas-Largest-Illegal-Immigrant-Colonia-and-Major-US-Media-Wont>.

⁷ “Gov. Abbott Plans to Add Colony Ridge to next Month’s Special Session | NewsRadio 740 KTRH.” n.d. KTRH Local Houston and Texas News. Accessed September 29, 2023. <https://ktrh.iheart.com/featured/houston-texas-news/content/2023-09-26-gov-abbott-plans-to-add-colony-ridge-to-next-months-special-session/>.

⁸ “Cleveland ISD Wages Fight against Drugs after Facing Several Overdoses: ‘Matter of Life or Death.’” 2023. ABC13 Houston. September 27, 2023. <https://abc13.com/cleveland-isd-drug-issue-student-overdoses-drugs-at-school/13835699/>; Taylor, David. 2019. “Census Says Liberty County Fastest Growing Hispanic Population in the Nation.” Chron. June 26, 2019. <https://www.chron.com/neighborhood/cleveland/news/article/Census-says-Liberty-county-fastest-growing-14035587.php>;

⁹ “Texas Education Agency - Student Enrollment Reports.” n.d. Rptsvr1.Tea.texas.gov. <https://rptsvr1.tea.texas.gov/adhocrpt/adste.html>.

¹⁰ Bensman, Todd. 2023. “America’s Public Schools: Canaries in the Coal Mine of the Biden Border Crisis.” CIS.org. April 3, 2023. <https://cis.org/Report/Americas-Public-Schools-Canaries-Coal-Mine-Biden-Border-Crisis>.

Furthermore, local infrastructure has also been burdened. The development has been cited by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality for, among other incidents, 48,000 gallons of wastewater contaminating local bayous and significant fecal coliform contamination of drainage ditches.¹¹ Aerial surveys of Colony Ridge reveal significant erosion of the drainage ditches, which has raised concerns from local water management advocates that it may contribute to increased flooding of citizens' homes in downstream communities.¹²

If even a fraction of the above claims are accurate, it is unthinkable that such an enormous settlement would be allowed to persist in Texas, much less expand to more than double in size over the next decade. As our state reels from the impacts of the ongoing invasion at our southern border, we believe it is incumbent upon state and local officials to respond appropriately to mitigate the effects on our citizens, their way of life, and their safety.

While those of us on Capitol Hill stand ready to address Colony Ridge in any way, as states' rights advocates, we believe your offices are strategically positioned to examine this situation. To address these issues, we believe the Office of the Attorney General of Texas is the proper entity to thoroughly investigate the land purchasing, use, tax status, and other authorizations relating to Colony Ridge and its affiliate entities.

In conjunction with this effort, we are encouraged that Governor Abbott is prioritizing this critical issue in the upcoming special session for the Texas Legislature. It is our view that any new state laws created to address these concerns should be applied and upheld in Colony Ridge and the surrounding area.

Earlier this year, every Republican member of the Texas congressional delegation voted for H.R. 2, the *Secure the Border Act of 2023*, which combats the Biden administration's abuse of parole, requires mandatory E-Verify, demands resumed border wall construction, and more.¹³ We will continue to fight for that legislation and do everything we can at the federal level to secure America.

Keeping us apprised of development and sharing the results of your investigations with us will be a vital tool in our continued efforts to combat what is happening in Colony Ridge – and illegal immigration at large – at the federal level. Texans are counting on you, and we stand ready to assist in this endeavor.

¹¹ admin. 2020. "48,000 Gallons of Fecal Contamination Found in Liberty County's Colony Ridge Ditches, Streams; Problems Persist." Reduce Flooding. June 23, 2020. <https://reduceflooding.com/2020/06/23/48000-gallons-of-fecal-contamination-found-in-liberty-countys-colony-ridge-ditches-streams-problems-persist/>; "Eight TCEQ Investigations Reprimand Colony Ridge Construction Practices-Plum Grove Development." 2021. Montgomery County Police Reporter. June 5, 2021. <https://montgomerycountypolicereporter.com/eight-tceq-investigations-reprimand-colony-ridge-construction-practices-plum-grove-development/>.

¹² admin. 2023. "Colony Ridge Stormwater Detention Basins, Ditches Fail to Meet Liberty County Standards." Reduce Flooding. August 16, 2023. <https://reduceflooding.com/2023/08/16/colony-ridge-stormwater-detention-basins-ditches-fail-to-meet-liberty-county-standards/>.

¹³ Washington, U. S. Capitol Room H154, and DC 20515-6601 p :225-7000. 2023. "Roll Call 209 Roll Call 209, Bill Number: H. R. 2, 118th Congress, 1st Session." Office of the Clerk, U.S. House of Representatives. May 11, 2023. <https://clerk.house.gov/Votes/2023209>.

Sincerely,



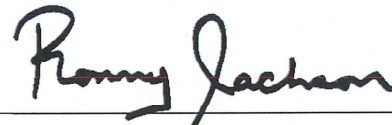
Brian Babin, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



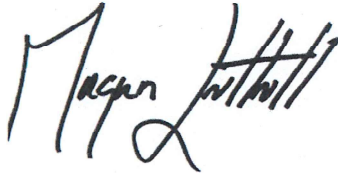
Kay Granger
Member of Congress



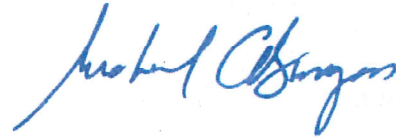
Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress



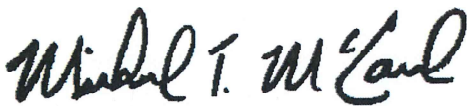
Ronny L. Jackson
Member of Congress



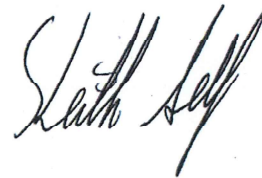
Morgan Luttrell
Member of Congress



Michael C. Burgess, M.D.
Member of Congress



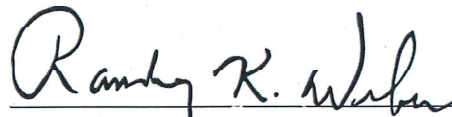
Michael McCaul
Member of Congress



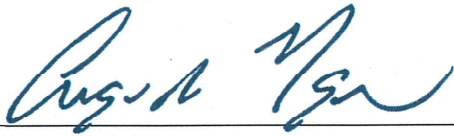
Keith Self
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Chip Roy
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Randy K. Weber
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August Pfluger
Member of Congress



Pete Sessions
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Nathaniel Moran
Member of Congress



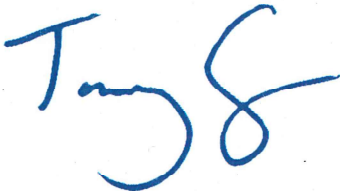
Roger Williams
Member of Congress



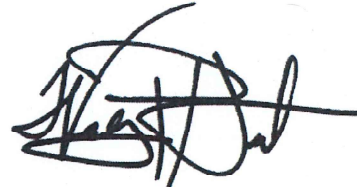
Pat Fallon
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John R. Carter
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Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Wesley Hunt
Member of Congress



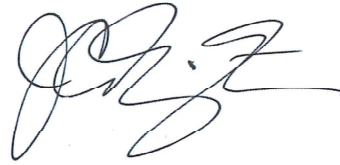
Dan Crenshaw
Member of Congress



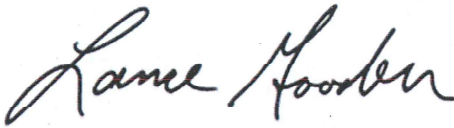
Jake Ellzey
Member of Congress



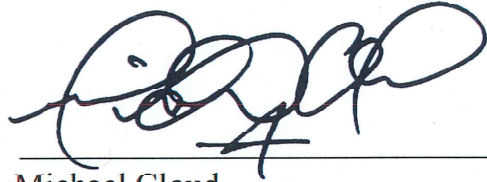
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Jodey C. Arrington
Member of Congress



Lance Gooden
Member of Congress



Michael Cloud
Member of Congress



Monica De La Cruz
Member of Congress