

Aurelio Guerra, Jr. Willacy County Judge

576 W. Main Ave, Room 152, Raymondville, Texas 78580

August 9, 2021

The Honorable John Cornyn 517 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cornyn:

On behalf of Willacy County officials and the over 200 employees of the Willacy County Regional Detention Facility (WCRDF), thank you for your ongoing efforts to keep the facility open. We particularly appreciate your willingness to ask Attorney General Garland important questions about the Executive Order and its impact on WCRDF. We look forward to learning more about the Attorney General's response to your questions.

As you know, this facility is an important employer in our county. WCRDF provides residents with good paying jobs, with income well above the standard levels for our county. The county also receives over \$400,000 in annual revenue from the facility, which is vitally important to our community. In addition, the county relies on WCDRF to provide nutritious meals to all of those held in our county jail.

We are also proud of the quality service provided in this facility. WCRDF achieved 100% compliance on mandatory standards in its most recent audit by the American Correctional Association (ACA) and is accredited by the National Commission on Correctional Health Care (NCCHC). It is certified by the Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA). It also meets all performance-based national detention standards.

With the WCRDF contract ending on September 30, 2021, we are anxious to preserve the facility and save over 200 jobs in the county. We want to do what we can to partner with you and support your efforts. Thank you for any additional help you can provide as we try to secure an intergovernmental service agreement (IGSA) between the Willacy County-Public Facility Corporation and the United States Marshals Service. The county would then plan to subcontract

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the operation and management of the facility to ensure that WCRDF continued to provide quality care to the nearly 600 individuals detained in the facility. Thank you again for helping in this important endeavor.

Sincerely,

Aurelio Guerra, Willacy County Judge