To prohibit construction of a continuous wall or fence between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Ms. MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM of New Mexico introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on __________________

A BILL

To prohibit construction of a continuous wall or fence between the United States and Mexico, and for other purposes.

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

2 SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

3 This Act may be cited as the “Build Bridges Not Walls Act”.

4 SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

5 Congress finds the following:
(1) The existing United States-Mexico border infrastructure already includes physical barriers, drones, cameras, motion detectors, thermal imaging sensors, ground sensors, and other surveillance tools.

(2) The United States already maintains approximately 650 miles of border fence in areas that most effectively stop the unauthorized entry of people, vehicles, drugs, arms, and illicit items.


(4) Most experts believe that the Trump Administration's border wall will cost between $15 billion to $25 billion, not including additional maintenance costs.

(5) Harsh terrain and conditions along remote parts of the United States-Mexico border make the construction of a wall or fence impractical, ineffective, and costly.

(6) Former CBP Commissioner Gil Kerlikowske stated that building a continuous wall is not “feasible” or the “smartest way to use taxpayer money”.

(7) A continuous border wall would likely harm wildlife, destroy sensitive habitat for endangered species, damage the environment and the natural
flow of floodwaters, and lead to costly litigation with landowners, the Native American community, and stakeholders.

(8) Border security is a complex issue that depends on effectively using resources to maintain operational control of the border while also facilitating the movement of people, goods, and services.

(9) The American people want Congress to use taxpayer dollars wisely and focus on middle-class priorities, including economic development, education, and health care.

SEC. 3. PROHIBITION ON CONSTRUCTION OF A UNITED STATES-MEXICO BORDER WALL.

The Executive Order entitled “Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements” signed by the President on January 25, 2017, or any other substantially similar executive order, memorandum, or other action by the President to use taxpayer dollars to construct a continuous wall or fence between the United States and Mexico, shall have no force or effect.