

(WASHINGTON, D.C.) - Congressman Wally Herger today voted for H.R. 6061, the "Secure Fence Act," which the House passed by a vote of 283 to 138. The measure, which Herger cosponsored, would strengthen border security by providing for extensive fencing and greater use of state-of-the-art surveillance technology along the U.S.-Mexico border. Herger made the following statement after House passage of the bill:

"During my recent visit to the U.S.-Mexico border, I was utterly dismayed and shocked by the insufficient infrastructure currently in place to help keep illegal immigrants out," Herger stated. "In some key areas, there simply isn't any fencing. In other places, experienced 'coyotes' know how to smuggle people easily across an inadequate barrier. This failure in our nation's border enforcement demands immediate action.

"For this reason, I am a cosponsor of and strongly support the 'Secure Fence Act,'" continued Herger. "This emergency measure provides for over 700 miles of reinforced doubledfencing along the border. It also mandates that the Department of Homeland Security establish a 'virtual fence' that utilizes cameras, ground sensors, and unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) to help gain control of our border. This bill is a critical step toward securing our border, and I urge the Senate to promptly pass it so it can go to the President's desk."

Herger concluded, "I understand that some radical environmental groups, including the 'Defenders of Wildlife,' actively worked to derail this bill, claiming that it would pose an unreasonable hardship on wildlife. This extreme viewpoint fails to recognize the incredible risks associated with having a porous border. I strongly believe effective enforcement of our border is critical to making our homeland more secure, and look forward to supporting additional measures that the House of Representatives will likely consider in the coming weeks to increase the number of Border Patrol agents and enhance our national security."