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Col. Owens,

I recently became aware that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is surveying lands, both public and private (on which they are trespassing), ahead of work the current administration seeks to do related to construction of the Border Fence.

Moreover, I understand landowners have been given no advance notice or any information concerning the presence of your people or the scope of your work; nor have they been given an opportunity to object or deny permission to enter.

This is unlawful and objectionable, specifically with regard to private property rights and the right to due process under the Constitution.

While national security is important to America, I do not wish to see laws related to private property rights and due process trampled in order to “secure” our borders against illegal immigration, drug smuggling and human trafficking; especially when walls and fences have NOT proven effective to combat these problems.

In fact, The Government Accountability Office’s 75-page report titled, *SOUTHWEST BORDER SECURITY Additional Actions Needed to Better Assess Fencing’s Contributions to Operations and Provide Guidance for Identifying Capability Gaps*, states, “Fencing Is Intended to Assist Agents in Performing Their Duties, but Its Contributions to Border Security Operations Have Not Been Assessed”; and “CBP Has Not Assessed Pedestrian or Vehicle Fencing’s Contributions to Border Security Operations Along the Southwest Border”.

While we have no evidence to support the Border Fence makes real contributions to border security operations; we do know walls amplify violence and increase the power of criminal organizations like the cartels, as described most recently in Business Insider, Military & Defense: <http://www.businessinsider.com/border-walls-are-ineffective-costly-and-fatal-2017-7>.

Please take a stand for due process, while executing your duties. There is nothing less American than “just following orders”, sir.

Sincerely,