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The Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture (ACSA) is a nonprofit association of over 200 member schools. These include all accredited architecture degree programs in institutions of higher education in the United States, as well as government-sanctioned schools in Canada. Through this membership, over 6,000 faculty members in architecture and allied disciplines are represented. Serving as the voice of architectural education, ACSA is the forum for ideas and issues that will affect architectural education and practice, design and building industry research, policy development, and liaison with allied professionals.

As educators, we are obligated to provide future professionals to serve the greater public welfare through ethical and intelligent stewardship of natural resources and the design of physical environments.

As envisioned, the U.S. federal government's proposed border wall—envisioned to be roughly 35-foot high and 1,954 miles long, extending from the Gulf of Mexico to the Pacific Ocean—would negatively affect the natural environment, including lands on Native American reservations, within U.S. state and national parks, and on significant ecosystems. Such preserves were established to safeguard unique cultural, historic, environmental, or recreational inheritances of great American value. Lands needed to construct this wall must be taken from owners, many of whom have kept these holdings for generations. The wall would also send a deleterious message to Mexico, our neighbor to the south, hampering commerce and posing severe economic constraints to residents on both sides of the border.

Lacking an independent cost–benefit and environmental impact analysis, a bipartisan conversation on its political impacts, a consideration of alternative means for securing the border, and a realistic means of funding, the construction of this barrier is fundamentally irresponsible and detrimental to the nation's interest.

The estimated \$18 to \$33 billion to construct a border wall with Mexico is an eighteenth century solution to a twenty-first century problem and is of dubious efficacy as a deterrent to illegal drugs, crime, and immigration. Such funding would far better serve the interests and quality of life of U.S. citizens if it were directed toward infrastructure projects that would actually build the civic structure of our communities: parks, schools, hospitals, libraries, community centers, mass transit, a smart power grid, national fiber-optic Internet, health care facilities, climate impact infrastructure, hurricane relief, or an improved national road system designed to accommodate autonomous vehicles. Such infrastructure would stimulate the national economy and provide a tangible civic benefit that a wall cannot.

Therefore, be it resolved, the Board of Directors of the ACSA communicates its opposition to the proposal for a continuous border wall separating the United States from Mexico, our country's neighbor, friend, trading partner, and long-time ally.

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Schools of Architecture**

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