



Let me begin by telling all of you again how honored I am to serve you as President of the Western States Sheriffs' Association.

These past three months have been a whirlwind of activity. I have been to the southwest border on two occasions in the month of April. First, the Southwest border and Texas border Sheriffs met in early April and we had a very productive couple of days in hearing about the continued crisis at the southwest border while pointing out the absence of legislative and executive assistance from the State of New Mexico to help curb the flow of illegal aliens. We drafted a letter that was approved by the Sheriffs Alliance and sent to congressional representatives asking for greater

attention along the areas of the New Mexico border.

Our public lands issues continue to require a great deal of our energy. I am proud of the work being done by Sheriff Glover, Kane County Utah and Sheriff English, Hood River County Oregon, in addressing the proposed rule changes currently facing us from the U.S. Forest Service, Bureau of Land Management and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Each of these proposed rule changes stand to have a significant impact on the ability of western Sheriffs to carry out their statutory obligations.

We recently heard back from the Bureau of Land Management and I am pleased to let you know that they took into consideration the comments submitted by WSSA and made significant changes to their proposed rule

which proved to be satisfactory to our needs. In consultation with the BLM, we agreed with the new proposal and offered a statement in support.

We continue to improve our communication to all of you and have recently initiated an online membership platform that will provide greater access to all of our membership, assist with annual dues reminders and provide a platform for registration to all WSSA events.

As the summer months approach, I will continue my travels on behalf of the association in an effort to build the association membership and keep you all informed on the activities we are involved in.

I hope you are all well and please stay safe.

— Sheriff Gary Bettencourt
Gilliam County, Oregon
President WSSA