

118TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 2917

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to develop a national strategy for supporting economic opportunity in border communities, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 26, 2023

Mr. VASQUEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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## A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Commerce to develop a national strategy for supporting economic opportunity in border communities, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Economic Opportunity  
5 for Border Communities Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL STRATEGY FOR SUPPORTING ECONOMIC**  
2 **OPPORTUNITY IN BORDER COMMUNITIES.**

3 (a) DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The  
4 Secretary shall develop a national strategy for supporting  
5 economic opportunity in border communities.

6 (b) GOALS OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The goals of  
7 the national strategy developed under subsection (a) are  
8 the following:

9 (1) Increasing the number of jobs in border  
10 communities, with a focus on the following indus-  
11 tries:

12 (A) Logistics.

13 (B) International trade.

14 (C) Manufacturing.

15 (D) Transportation.

16 (E) Agriculture.

17 (2) Strengthening United States competitive-  
18 ness in manufacturing.

19 (3) Reducing the costs of exports and imports.

20 (4) Increasing the number of opportunities for  
21 workforce development, including by providing voca-  
22 tional training for the industries described in para-  
23 graph (1).

24 (c) CONTENT OF NATIONAL STRATEGY.—The na-  
25 tional strategy developed under subsection (a) shall in-  
26 clude the following:

1           (1) Assessment of incentives, including tax in-  
2           centives, for economic development in border com-  
3           munities.

4           (2) Recommendations for statutory or regu-  
5           latory changes necessary to achieve the goals de-  
6           scribed in subsection (b).

7           (3) Coordination with the Secretary of Housing  
8           and Urban Development and the Secretary of Agri-  
9           culture to evaluate the role of rural housing, infra-  
10          structure, and economic development programs in  
11          supporting economic development in border commu-  
12          nities.

13          (4) Coordination with the Secretary of Trans-  
14          portation to evaluate the role of highway and railway  
15          infrastructure in supporting economic development  
16          in border communities.

17          (d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
18          of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit  
19          to Congress a report on the national strategy developed  
20          under subsection (a).

21          (e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

22                (1) BORDER COMMUNITY.—The term “border  
23                community” means a municipality not more than 15  
24                miles from a land port of entry.

1           (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
2           the Secretary of Commerce.

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