



John Nygren

WISCONSIN STATE REPRESENTATIVE ★ 89TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

Co-Chair, Joint Committee on Finance

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Rep. Nygren Tours Southern Border

Madison--State Representative John (R-Marinette) released the following statement:

“On Monday, I had the privilege to tour our nation's southern border with elected officials from around the country. The tour, hosted by the State of Texas, the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland Security, and organized by the American Legislative Exchange Council, was an opportunity for me to learn about the state of the southern border and what happens there on a daily basis.”

“The southern border presents a critical challenge for every state in our nation. Drugs and other illegal substances flowing through the Mexican border are ultimately distributed nationwide, placing citizens in Wisconsin at risk.”

According to the [Drug Enforcement Administration](#) (DEA), Mexican Transnational Criminal Organizations “remains the greatest criminal drug threat to the United States.” In 2016, heroin from Mexico accounted for 86 percent of the heroin by weight analyzed through the Heroin Signature Program. The DEA reports that the southwestern border remains the primary entry point for heroin into the United States and shows no sign of slowing down.

From the same DEA report: “The annual United States Government estimate of Mexican Poppy Cultivation and Heroin Production report found poppy cultivation reached a record high in 2017. Potential pure heroin production increased by 37 percent, from 81 metric tons in 2016 to 111 metric tons in 2017.”

“The numbers don’t lie, this isn’t politics, this is a crisis. As Congress and the President work to tackle this ever important issue, I remain supportive of comprehensive immigration reform while at the same time strengthening our southern border. Our nation is facing a crisis and it is imperative that we find a way to stop it without hindering legal immigration into our great nation.”

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