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## STOP OR CHASE – A CHOICE

By Steve Bakke 🏁 January 21, 2019



A News-Press editorial letter on January 19 envisions an ideal world in which border security consists of guard towers, drones, border agents, ultralight aircraft, ground vehicles, and lights for constant surveillance. A wall would be "clunky, outdated."

What's difficult about envisioning a barrier making other surveillance techniques more effective? That's been the point of the border barrier/wall/fence/whatever, all along. A modern design barrier effectively slows people down and stops or influences actions of migrants – i.e. it provides time to react. This is particularly important in hard to control places.

Barrier proponents are asked to check with the experts. They already have. Border officials, patrol personnel, and immigration officials consistently request a barrier to compliment the other aspects: personnel, modern technology, port of entry security, visa control, employer background checking, and.....common sense.

If you see a border barrier as an end in itself, there's no way you could support it. But no proponent asserts that. It's an essential part of an entire system. Remember, without a barrier, while security personnel may be alerted to illegal entry by using monitoring techniques, it then becomes a matter of chasing those who have crossed. As a practical matter, wouldn't we rather stop them instead?