

## Border Fence Plan to Get Critical Look in Next Congress

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**FOX NEWS**



**WASHINGTON** - The 700-mile border fence Congress approved for construction in a session-ending deal was little more than a fast act of political cosmetics in an election year and may never come to fruition, say immigration advocates looking ahead to the Democratic-led 110th Congress.

Rep. Bennie Thompson, D-Miss., will re-evaluate the border fence issue when he becomes chairman of the House Homeland Security Committee in January. Thompson has said that while a physical fence may be a good idea in some urban areas, the issue is broader than a physical barrier. He has voiced support for a type of "virtual" fence along some parts of the border. The border fence has come under fire from Democrats and pro-immigration groups as well as some Republicans who say erecting a fence isn't a substitute for comprehensive immigration reform.

"I think the fence vote was about people keeping their jobs ... I think it was a political vote that doesn't represent very deep thinking on enforcement," said Angela Kelley, deputy director of the National Immigration Forum, a pro-immigration advocacy group. "The real debate is one about full-fledged reform. You can't just take a little piece of it and hope that's enough." Those in favor of more stringent immigration controls say while sensors, heat detectors and underground seismic activity trackers may have been used to thwart insurgents in Afghanistan and Iraq, they have yet to prove they can prevent illegal immigrants from coming over the border into the United States. Those immigration hawks say have little hope Democrats will make up for what they consider a shortfall in President Bush's approach.

Boeing has proposed 1,800 towers equipped with cameras, sensors and links to computers along the U.S. borders with both Mexico and Canada. It's relying heavily on adapting military technology from the battlefield. The company has received \$67 million for the first phase, which will cover a 28-mile section near Tucson, Ariz. After eight months of use, DHS will determine whether it was worth the money and how effective it was at preventing illegal border crossers.

Kelly forecasted that early next year, the Senate Judiciary Committee — which will be chaired by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who will work closely with ranking Republican Sen. Arlen Specter, of Pennsylvania — will move a bill similar to one passed this year by the Senate, which, among other things, will put 500 more full-time port of entry inspectors and add more homeland security personnel and U.S. Marshals to investigate alien smuggling and other immigration-related crime; increase the number of full-time active duty Border Patrol agents by 2,000 in this fiscal year and add more UAVs in the air, along with other virtual surveillance equipment.

"The American public changed leadership in Congress because, among other things, they believe that the Bush administration has failed to make our nation less vulnerable to terrorists attacks, and because the administration's lax attitude toward illegal immigration harms America's most vulnerable workers and is undermining the middle class," Stein wrote. "They will be sorely disappointed if the Democratic leadership pursues the same failed policies. "The threats to both are real and they cannot be ignored while a new group of politicians posture instead of act."

1. As a ratio expressed in simplest form, express how many more millimeters than centimeters the perimeter of completed fence would extend. Convert that data into both a decimal and percentage and explain what this information means.
2. Compare and contrast the advantages and disadvantages of such a project. Explain in paragraph(s) form.
3. Given the present cost for the completion of Phase I, at the same rate, approximately how much can you project the final project to cost?
4. Precisely what is the cost for foot of fence? Does this seem even remotely reasonable to you? Explain.
5. Assuming each border agent currently receives a mean of about \$17.19/per hour, how much more can the U.S. Government anticipate paying annually with the addition of the new Border Patrol Agents working 40 hours/week?
6. In the passage above, in paragraph form, explain at least five ways using the red "Four-Step Reading" poster simplifies understanding of the material. Be specific.
7. In complete sentences, using contextual clues only, explain the meaning of the italicized words: *cosmetics*, *advocates*, *virtual*, *fledged*, *stringent*, *surveillance*, *vulnerable*, and *posture*. Additionally, use each in a sentence to demonstrate further comprehension. Basically, there are 16 questions here.
8. In paragraph form, explain at least five legitimate and educational purposes behind The Daughtry Times.