

Redefining Constitutional Free Zone

WHEREAS the 4th Amendment to the US Constitution guarantees us protection from unreasonable searches and seizures,

WHEREAS this is interpreted to mean without reasonable cause or a court order,

WHEREAS the 4th Amendment applies to the whole of the United States, from border to border,

WHEREAS federal regulations have given US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) leeway to expand their authority to conduct routine searches beyond the dictates of the 4th Amendment within a reasonable distance from the borders,

WHEREAS this “reasonable distance” has been assumed—without Congressional debate or sanction—to be within 100 miles of the border,

WHEREAS 2/3 of the American people (over 200 million citizens) live within 100 miles of a US border,

WHEREAS CBP personnel routinely disregard the civic protections even this arbitrary zone regulation affords,

WHEREAS CBP personnel are poorly trained and enforced in the nuances of these regulations,

WHEREAS US citizens and legal immigrants have their lives disrupted by these overzealous searches,

BE IT RESOLVED that Congress debate the legitimacy and appropriateness of this arbitrary 100 mile “Constitution Free Zone,” and

BE IT RESOLVED that Congress pass legislation that specifies the allowable extent of CBP’s authority in seeking to determine the immigration status of individuals, and

BE IT RESOLVED that this legislation mandate all CBP personnel be thoroughly trained in the rights of individuals within our borders, and

BE IT RESOLVED that this legislation mandate all CBP supervisors insist that the law, regulations, and Constitutional protections be enforced as intended.