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**ICA Urges Department of Homeland Security to
Take Action on Texas-Mexico Border**

Lockhart, Texas – April 8, 2010 – For Immediate Release –The Independent Cattlemen's Association of Texas (ICA) has urged Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano to increase security along the Texas- Mexico Border. Due to increased drug smuggling and Mexican drug cartel infighting, many border area ranchers are subject to increasing danger as they care for their livestock and work on their ranches. In their letter to Secretary Napolitano, the ICA requested more attention be taken to secure the private properties that are along the border.

"When ranchers have to arm themselves with assault rifles prior to venturing onto their own ranches, it is time for action to be taken by Homeland Security," said Bill Hyman, ICA executive director. "The recent murder of a rancher along the Arizona-Mexico border exemplifies the need for increased security for our Texas landowners."

Robert Krentz, a longtime Arizona rancher, was found shot to death on his Polaris ATV, on his family's 35,000-acre ranch last week. According to the local Sheriff's office, Krentz had radioed his brother that he was checking out a suspected illegal alien found wandering on the ranch. Both the well-respected rancher and his faithful dog were found shot and left to die, according to authorities investigating the case. A search of the area revealed the suspected gunman fled south to Mexico. Investigators said the area in question is a known corridor for smuggling activities and was the scene of a recent drug seizure.

"These occurrences are becoming far too common in Texas and other border states," said Hyman. "With thousands of miles of ranch roads and trails on Texas border land, many ranchers live in constant fear of accidentally venturing into drug smugglers and armed gunmen on their properties. The illegal activities and random acts of lawlessness occurring across the border in Mexico on a regular basis are now spilling over to the United States."

The ICA requested Secretary Napolitano to take immediate and decisive action to prevent the reoccurrence of such activities in Texas and other border states.

