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Tuesday August 10, 2010

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## Rick Perry demands tighter security along border between Texas, Mexico

By David Colby, Daily Texan Staff  
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*Editor's Note: Rick Perry's letter to President Obama can be found at the bottom of this article.*

Gov. Rick Perry spoke to the Texas Public Policy Foundation at the Intercontinental Hotel in Austin on Monday afternoon, detailing his plan to increase security along the Texas-Mexico border.



Derek Stout | Daily Texan Staff  
President Barack Obama and Gov. Rick Perry greet each other on the runway at Austin-Bergstrom International Airport on Monday.

Perry, addressing a crowd of about 100, focused his speech on Washington's "lackadaisical" response to securing the Texas border. Perry blamed President Barack Obama's administration for failing to provide adequate resources and manpower on the border.

Perry hand-delivered a letter (found below) to Obama's aide, Valerie Jarrett, outlining his concerns about border security and requesting that the president provide an additional 1,000 National Guard troops for Texas to deploy to its southern border. In his address Monday afternoon, Perry reiterated the concerns expressed in his letter.

"I was [on the tarmac] this morning to greet the president and to hand him a letter that outlines very clearly my concerns about border security and the evolving danger of transnational gangs," Perry said.

Perry's meeting with the president on Monday morning lasted only a few minutes, during which Perry said the issue of border security did not come up. He expressed disappointment with the limited time he was given to speak to the president, although he was hopeful Obama would read the letter.

"My hope was to have a very frank, face-to-face discussion with [Obama] about the issue of border security," Perry said. "Ideally, I would like to get him to the border where he could be face-to-face with those people that are affected by this serious threat."

Perry aimed harsh words at the Obama administration throughout his address, characterizing the increasing spillover of gang violence into American cities as a failure of the federal government's understanding and response to border security.

"The federal government is obligated to secure our international borders. Unfortunately, Washington has been an abject failure to date," Perry said.

In a press conference after the event, Perry directly blamed the president for failing to provide sufficient security on Texas' border.

"I think we all understand the way the federal government works. It starts at the top, and you get your instructions from the president of the United States," Perry said.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Bill White, who was campaigning in West Texas on Monday, took issue with Perry's assertion that border-control problems in Texas are solely a failure of the federal government.

"What has Perry been doing for the last 10 years?" White campaign spokeswoman Katy Bacon said in an e-mail.

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*Texan reporters were everywhere when Obama came to town, and we bring it all together with a stop motion recap of his visit to Austin and UT.*

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