

1 [Urging President George W. Bush not to deploy the National Guard along the United
2 States—Mexico border]

3 **Resolution urging President George W. Bush not to deploy the National Guard along**
4 **the United States—Mexico border.**

5
6 WHEREAS, President George W. Bush announced on May 15, 2006, from the Oval
7 Office, a plan to deploy up to 6,000 National Guard troops along the United States—Mexico
8 border; and,

9 WHEREAS, The very idea of placing military troops on the border undermines the best
10 U.S. traditions of openness and makes into enemies and scapegoats people who are simply
11 trying to improve their lives; and,

12 WHEREAS, Such a proposal denigrates the essential contributions made by
13 immigrants throughout U.S. history; and,

14 WHEREAS, In addition to the patently offensive symbolism of placing National Guard
15 troops on the border, the proposal is also impractical for a variety of reasons; and,

16 WHEREAS, National Guard resources are already over-extended by the wars in Iraq
17 and Afghanistan; and,

18 WHEREAS, The National Guard has had to increase its maximum length of
19 deployment from 6 months to 24 months; and,

20 WHEREAS, The allocation of National Guard resources for border patrol activities
21 decreases the Guard's ability to respond to emergencies within the United States borders;
22 and,

23 WHEREAS, The National Guard provides vital rescue, relief and rebuilding services
24 during national emergencies like earthquakes, hurricanes, and wildfires; and,

25

1 WHEREAS, Over the past decade the increased militarization of the U.S.—Mexico
2 border has resulted in a tenfold increase in the death rates of people trying to cross the border
3 without lowering the number of people crossing the border without documents; and

4 WHEREAS, Under the National Defense Act of 1916, the President is authorized to
5 deploy the National Guard only in case of war or during a national emergency and only then
6 for the duration of that emergency; and,

7 WHEREAS, Since illegal immigration does not constitute a national emergency, so
8 President Bush must rely on the border states to implement his proposal; and,

9 WHEREAS, Under the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, the Federal Armed Forces are
10 prohibited from actively participating in civilian law enforcement within the United States; and,

11 WHEREAS, President Bush’s assurances that National Guard troops would only
12 provide support for Border Patrol agents, rather than actively enforcing immigration laws, rings
13 hollow; and,

14 WHEREAS, President Bush’s plan to deploy National Guard troops along the border
15 represents an reprehensible militarization of the immigration issue and overshadows his more
16 immigrant-friendly rhetoric and proposals; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED, That the San Francisco Board of Supervisors urges President George W.
18 Bush to repeal his plan to deploy the National Guard along the United States—Mexico border;
19 and, be it

20 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors send copies of this
21 resolution to the Congressional delegation representing San Francisco, including House of
22 Representatives Minority Leader Nancy Pelosi, Senator Barbara Boxer, and Senator Dianne
23 Feinstein.