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## Letters to the Editor, Jan. 30: Border wall's untold costs and issues

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Do the wall supporters realize that the \$5.7 billion that President Trump wants is a “down payment” that would cover a fraction of the miles he eventually wants to be walled?

Estimates of a steel fence are \$30 billion to \$40 billion and this does not account for the legal bills and land appropriation costs as two-thirds of the land is privately owned. There already have been lawsuits filed, and much of the land will have to be taken by eminent domain with the owner paid “fair value.” This, of course, is subjective and invites lawsuits that can go on for years. (Most of this information came from the Cato Institute think tank.)

In Texas, the fence would have to be way back from the Rio Grande even though the border goes down the middle. This cuts Americans from recreational or commercial use of the river.

Another problem here is that steel slat fencing, while allowing water through in seasonal rains and hurricanes, soon would clog with debris, holding the water back and causing flooding on both sides of the river.

If Trump changes his mind again and wants concrete walls, they have to have large holes to allow water to pass through, again defeating the purpose. It would almost be comical if we were required to pay Mexico for flood damage instead of Mexico paying for the wall as Trump promised.

Some Trump voters thought he would do something about the national debt, but so far he has just added to it. Why didn't he pick another campaign promise to dwell on, like better and cheaper healthcare for all?