U.S

Joe Biden

U.S.-Mexico Border

Border Wall

Border

Republicans

Auction

# Joe Biden Sold Off Border Wall Materials Weeks Before Approving New Wall

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By <u>Aleks Phillips</u>
U.S. News Reporter

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he Biden administration has been selling off materials that were supposed to be used to construct barriers at the border with Mexico just days before it approved the construction of a new, 20-mile stretch of border wall.

Listings on GovPlanet, an auction site for state, local and federal agencies to auction off surplus inventory, show it has been selling off lots of square iron and steel wall tubing for tens of thousands of dollars as recently as Wednesday. On Thursday, the <u>Department of Homeland Security</u> approved the construction of the <u>new border wall</u> along the Rio Grande Valley in Texas.

The auction house still has active lots available, which do not end until the latter half of October. The Biden administration said it only approved the new wall because the funding for it had to be used and construction completed in 2023.

When news of the auctions first emerged in August, Republicans accused the federal government of wasting taxpayers' money. The recent approval of a new stretch of barrier raises questions as to whether the decision to sell off the materials—which are located in Red Rock, Arizona—may have been short-sighted on behalf of the administration.

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A man walks after crossing from Tijuana to San Diego, taking advantage of a gap on the border barriers, as contractors work to replace them on the U.S. side, as seen from Playas de Tijuana,... More GUILLERMO ARIAS/AFP VIA GETTY IMAGES

Newsweek approached the White House and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) via email for comment on Friday.



When asked if he thought a border wall worked—having said during the 2020 election that "not another foot of wall would be constructed" under his watch—the president, sitting in the Oval Office on Thursday, responded with a flat: "No."

He added that the money for the wall had been appropriated in 2019 before he took office, and though he attempted to get the funding redirected, <u>Congress</u> had refused. However, his administration has faced criticism for waiving 23 federal laws to get the border wall construction going.

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According to the GovPlanet listings, in October alone the U.S. government made a total of \$115,910 from the metal fencing tubes, which measure 28 feet long and are typically anchored into the ground with concrete. The latest four lots, sold on October 4, saw prices ranging from \$25,700 to \$32,505.

aloully tiall a Hillion yours from the sales in August, with listings young further back in the year.

A USACE spokesperson previously told Newsweek that the materials were being disposed of "in accordance with the Federal Acquisition Regulation."

"USACE has already transferred approximately \$154 million worth of the roughly \$260 million of bollard panels and other materials in accordance with standard excess property disposition procedures," a spokesperson said at the time. "USACE stands ready to implement a decision regarding disposition of the remaining materials."

In September, Republicans on the House Oversight Committee announced it was investigating reports of the materials being sold off, requesting documents from USACE to aid the probe. While former President Donald Trump had made border wall building a centerpiece of his administration, Biden halted all construction when he came into office in 2021.

"The Biden administration's decision to sell already purchased border materials is [a] waste and abuse of taxpayer dollars," House Oversight Committee chair James Comer previously wrote in a statement. "We should be using tools already at our disposal to stop the surge of illegal border crossings. When someone is repeatedly breaking into your home, you don't sell the locks on the door."

While Republicans have touted border walls as an effective form of deterrent to undocumented migration—which in the 11 months to August has seen 2.2 million encounters along the southern border—the Biden administration notes that the hollow tubes can be cut through with conventional power tools while border agents cannot police the entire length of the international boundary.

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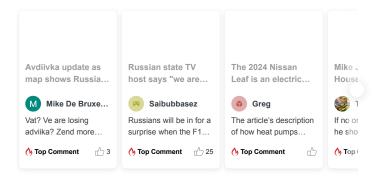
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## <u>Aleks Phillips</u>

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Aleks Phillips is a Newsweek U.S. News Reporter based in London. His focus is on U.S. politics and the environment. ... read more

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**drdavey777**6 October, 2023

Well, this is how you know it was a government operation. I'm sure the original material was bought significantly above cost, it was sold for dimes on the dollar, and now they'll probably spend five times the required amount to build a few paltry miles of barrier.

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G Guest
6 October 2023

Biden also started raiding the strategic petroleum reserves when oil prices were much lower. To replenish, he'll make us pay higher prices.

(Edited)

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#### Croesus

6 October, 2023

Refusing a Taliban offer of having US forces handle security in Kabul during the withdrawal, then ordering a blitzkrieg retreat of US forces--- abandoning thousands of civilians and \$billions in weapons.

Hawking \$300 million worth of border parts for \$2 million, then ordering construction of the b...

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#### B Bluhorizons

6 October, 2023

The only way illegal entry will be brought under control is to boot out the current administration. Everything they have done, which is billed as "doing something," is actually doing something to make illegal entry easier.

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### ES Ed Smith

7 October, 2023

Plenty of illegal migration into the USA under the last 10 administrations. The rich want cheap illegal labor. Congress and administrations comply. Any company can hire illegal workers and know their chance of being caught is low and any punishment would be mild.

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### azsky

6 October, 2023

Biden does not own the supplies. Citizens pd for. Texas offered to buy, biden sold for cents on dollar. Not looking at our best interest security or finances.

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### BoJoeTheClown

6 October, 2023

The money to replace the wall materials joe has already sold off should come directly out of his pocket, nowhere in the law does it say he has the right to sell them

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### J John

6 October, 2023

There is still plenty of materials available for the little bit of wall that is being built. The remainder of the materials will continue to be auctioned off.

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#### B Bridgette

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Funny! 🤄

Biden should give away the scraps to Americans for free; they can use them for home security.

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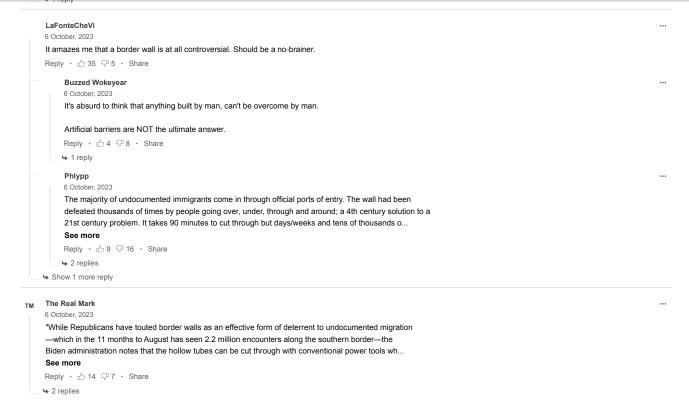
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### Timekeeper

6 October, 2023

When you design things, you have to improve upon them when they are not as effective as thought. I have seen many a design change that requires a different amount of material. If the old prefabricated material is not part of the new design, they are sold at auction to help pay for the new and impro...

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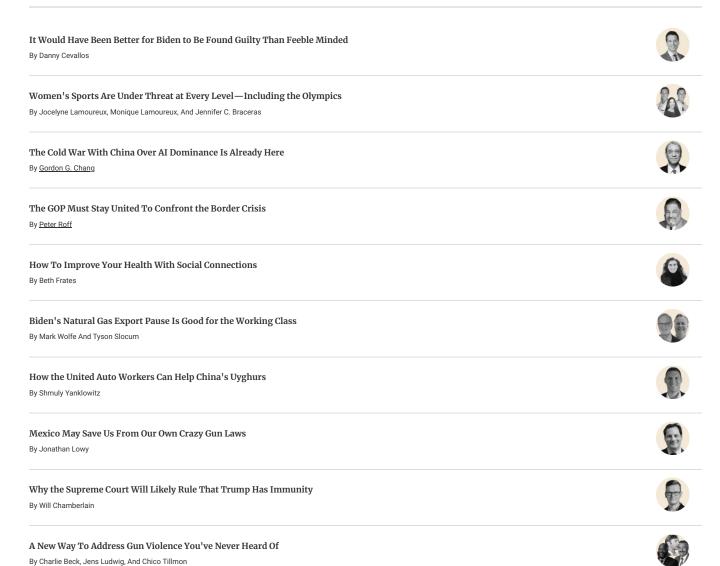




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