

News Item

National Butterfly Center in Texas shuts down amid right-wing harassment | NPR

By Sharon Pruitt-Young February 3, 2022

The butterflies will fly no more — or not in public view, anyway.

The <u>National Butterfly Center</u> in Mission, Texas, has announced that it's closing its doors "for the immediate future" after ongoing harassment directed at employees and the center itself.

The center, a nonprofit nature reserve nestled near the U.S.-Mexico border, unwittingly became the subject of conservative conspiracy theories and political conflict in recent years, having been locked in a years-long <u>legal battle</u> with the Trump administration and <u>We Build the Wall</u> regarding a planned border wall.

The harassment grew so great that it led the board of directors of the North American Butterfly Association, which owns and operates the butterfly center, to decide on Tuesday to close the center's doors, according to a <u>statement</u> released Wednesday.

[...]

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