

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-0301

March 6, 2014

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
H-305, The Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
B-307, Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
1016 Longworth HOB  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Rogers and Carter, and Ranking Members Lowey and Price:

As you begin deliberations on the Fiscal Year (FY) 2015 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, we urge you to prioritize spending so that robust resources may be allocated to Customs and Border Protection (CBP) so they may carry out their critical missions of facilitating trade while also securing our borders.

Border security is of utmost concern when considering the protection of our homeland. It is a key facet of the federal government's most important and legitimate role, which is to protect our nation from potential threats. The United States is also a nation of laws, and CBP is on the front lines of the struggle to enforce the rule of law.

CBP works tirelessly to monitor our nation's borders and ensure that illegal activity is minimized. The agents in the field risk their lives to track, deter, and prevent all sorts of smuggling activities, including human trafficking. A porous border is an imminent national security threat to United States, as such a state of affairs could lead to the smuggling of terrorists or components of weapons of mass destruction.

According to CBP's own statistics, agents made over 420,000 apprehensions at our borders in FY 2013, up from 364,000 in FY 2012 and 340,000 in FY 2011. Given these increases, it is evident that we must maintain or augment CBP's resources so that they may keep pace with the influx of activity at the border.

Further, in FY 2013 alone, CBP seized 2.4 million pounds of marijuana, 4,700 pounds of cocaine, and 3,580 pounds of methamphetamine. With these staggering numbers, now is not the time to reduce resources to those keeping illegal drugs off American streets.

Ensuring adequate resources for CBP is important not only from a security standpoint, but also in terms of fostering economic growth. CBP facilitates an enormous amount of trade. In 2012, the United States and Mexico engaged in nearly half a trillion dollars (\$494 billion) in commerce. With the improvement and expansion of some of our ports of entry, sufficient personnel will be necessary to meet new demands.

These are not Republican or Democratic issues, but rather these are national security issues and economic issues that impact the entire nation. It is our collective duty as a deliberative body to ensure that we support CBP's efforts to protect the nation and facilitate trade. We thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request, and we applaud your leadership on your respective committees.

Sincerely,



Paul A. Gosar  
Member of Congress



Ron Barber  
Member of Congress



Trent Franks  
Member of Congress



Matt Salmon  
Member of Congress



David Schweikert  
Member of Congress



Diane Black  
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa  
Member of Congress



Marlin Stutzman  
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick  
Member of Congress