

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0309

April 10, 2025

President Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Mr. President:

During your address to Congress, you stressed the importance of investing in our border security infrastructure to keep Americans safe. We agree. That is why we write to highlight the importance of four critical land port of entry (POE) modernization projects being carried out by the General Services Administration (GSA) in Arizona. We urge that you reject any funding reductions and take all available steps to expedite the completion of these projects critical to our state and the nation.

Modernizing land POE infrastructure will enable port officers to more effectively prevent fentanyl from entering our country and poisoning our communities. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) seizures of fentanyl increased over 680 percent between 2019 and 2024, over 80 percent of which was seized at ports of entry.¹ In fact, Arizona's ports have consistently seized the largest proportion of this fentanyl, accounting for nearly 50 percent of all CBP seizures.² Yet outdated technology and inadequate port infrastructure restrict CBP's ability to catch large quantities of fentanyl and other illicit drugs that go undetected, further fueling the opioid crisis. Swift completion of Arizona's port modernization projects is crucial for CBP to reach full screening capacity and halt the flow of fentanyl into our state once and for all.

Bringing Arizona land POE infrastructure into the 21st century will also allow CBP to prevent drug cartels from smuggling illicit weapons and currency into Mexico that they use to fuel their violence and corruption-based criminal enterprises. In Fiscal Year 2024, CBP seized over 1,300 firearms³ and other weapons and nearly \$8 million in cash⁴ intended to be smuggled into Mexico through ports of entry along the Southwest border—a small fraction of the estimated 200,000 firearms trafficked undetected into Mexico each year.⁵ Arizona's four land POE modernization projects will enable CBP to seize more illicitly smuggled firearms and cash, depriving violent drug cartels of power and financing.

¹ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Drug Seizure Statistics*, (<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/drug-seizure-statistics>).

² *Id.*

³ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Weapons and Ammunition Seizures*, (<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/weapons-and-ammunition-seizures>).

⁴ U.S. Customs and Border Protection, *Currency & Other Monetary Instrument Seizures*, (<https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/currency-other-monetary-instrument-seizures>).

⁵ U.S. Government Accountability Office, *GAO-21-322, Firearms Trafficking*, (Feb. 22, 2021).

In 2020, your Administration produced a report identifying 11 land POE projects that should be prioritized for construction or modernization, which included three land port of entry projects in Arizona – the San Luis Port of Entry modernization project, the construction of a new commercial Port of Entry in Douglas, and the renovation of the Raul H. Castro Port of Entry. Over the last six years, Congress has provided full funding for these three projects, as well as additional funding to complete a feasibility study for the modernization of the Nogales-Dennis DeConcini Port of Entry.

Each of these projects was designed in close collaboration with CBP to ensure the facilities meet their operational security and workforce needs, as well as with local business and government partners. We ask that you work to ensure these critical projects, which provide clear operational security benefits and enhance economic activity, are completed expeditiously and that GSA has the staff and resources needed to advance these projects without delay.

As border senators, we believe in the need for border security to keep all Arizonans and Americans safe. Improving POE infrastructure is a crucial part of ensuring dangerous drugs, firearms, and illicit currency do not cross our borders and enhancing the safety of CBP officers and personnel who work at our ports. We ask that you ensure all congressionally appropriated funding is maintained and provide the resources and personnel necessary to keep these critical land POE projects on schedule. Finally, we request that our offices receive a briefing no later than April 25, 2025, regarding the steps your administration is taking to ensure these projects continue without delay.

We look forward to your response.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

Cc:

Acting Administrator of the General Services Administration, Stephen Ehikian
Acting Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Pete R. Flores
Border Czar, Tom Homan