



July 2, 2010

Senator John McCain
US Senator
241 Russell
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Jon Kyl
US Senator
730 Hart
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Funding for Additional CBP Staffing

Dear Senators McCain and Kyl,

We have been informed that the House of Representatives has just passed the Budget Supplemental Bill which, among many other provisions, includes the funding for 500 new Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officers. On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority I write to request that you support this initiative and that you work with your colleagues to ensure that the Senate version also includes the additional funding for the 500 new CBP officers.

In the original amendment submitted by the President, the Administration had requested an additional 1,000 Border Patrol Officers, and 160 Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement (ICE) officers. That submittal only included the funding necessary for an additional 30 CBP officers. We were simply dismayed that our ports of entry, where more than 300 million people per year and close to \$1 billion per day are processed at the border were getting so little attention.

While we whole heartedly agree with the need to secure the border, it is also imperative that ports of entry receive the same level of attention. As the Border Patrol deploys additional resources all along the border it forces all activities to focus at the ports of entry. Yet our ports of entry are outdated, lack the necessary staffing, and are in need of additional proven technologies to effectively and efficiently enforce the laws and manage the ports of entry.

As we have communicated with you before, our binational community is dependent on the ability of both goods and people to cross the border effectively and efficiently. Yet our wait times to cross the border are well over 45 minutes in a 24-hour cycle. That combined with the enhanced inspection and enforcement for southbound

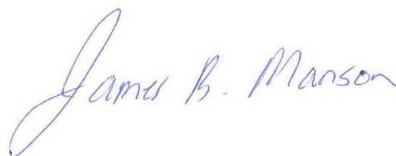
traffic, it is not uncommon for someone who crosses the border daily to wait in excess of 2 to 4 hours to cross the border in one round trip. There is nothing worse than being stuck in line to cross the border and seeing booths that are not being staffed and operated.

You know that we are strong advocates for improvements in infrastructure, but to invest in infrastructure without the necessary staffing is simply unacceptable. We raise this issue as the Mariposa Reconfiguration project is well underway and we are seriously concerned that once the facilities are completed CBP will not have sufficient staff to operate it to its capacity.

We estimate that the Nogales port of entry system alone requires as many as 100 new CBP officers – today! CBP, like every other agency of this size, always has variations in staffing due to attrition, relocation, and various other causes. Furthermore, from recruitment to deployment a new officer can take well over a year before they are assigned to their post. Thus we ask that you work to ensure that Nogales receives a net gain of 100 officers.

“Staffing to need” is the key. It is critical that CBP receive the funds for the additional staffing. Our ports of entry at Nogales are in dire need of additional staffing. We are planning a visit to Washington in the near future to communicate this urgent need and look forward to meeting with you at that time.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "James B. Manson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James B. Manson
Chairman