

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 6, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Edward Forst
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20450

Dear Secretary Mullin and Administrator Forst,

We write regarding the critical need to modernize the Dennis DeConcini Land Port of Entry (LPOE) project in Nogales, AZ. The DeConcini port is the most active LPOE in Arizona, and one of the most active in the desert Southwest. We ask that you take all available steps to expedite the completion of all pre-construction activities and prioritize the funding of the DeConcini LPOE modernization on the next five-year capital investment plan developed by the General Services Administration (GSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

Connecting the cities of Nogales, Arizona and Nogales, Sonora, the DeConcini LPOE saw more than 7 million personal vehicle passengers along with nearly 3.5 million pedestrians in 2025. That makes the DeConcini LPOE one of the busiest ports on the U.S.-Mexico border and Arizona's busiest port of entry. The port was originally built in 1931, and the current port facilities were constructed in 1994 and are in need of upgrades to accommodate increased cross-border trade and travel and meet post-9/11 security requirements. The port's existing footprint and configuration prevent the installation of inspection sensors and other technology that CBP needs to carry out its border security mission. Furthermore, the port's proximity to the International Outfall Interceptor and Nogales Wash have caused flooding and sanitary sewer overflows, which expose CBP officers to unsafe conditions and have led to unanticipated closures of the port.

Recognizing the importance of modernizing the DeConcini LPOE, Congress provided \$500,000 to complete a feasibility study for the modernization of the port in 2022. We understand that this study was completed last year, and GSA now must issue a "notice to proceed" on the

environmental review required under the National Environmental Policy Act. We urge that you take all available actions to expedite the completion of these needed reviews and ensure the project is prioritized for completion on the five-year capital investment plan.

The feasibility study for the DeConcini LPOE was conducted in close collaboration with CBP to ensure the facilities meet their operational security and workforce needs, as well as in collaboration with local business and government partners. This project represents a once-in-a-generation investment in cross-border infrastructure and provides security upgrades needed by CBP. Particularly in the Nogales area, which has been a corridor for the influx of fentanyl into the United States in recent years—at times seizing over 50 percent of the total fentanyl seized across the entire Southwest—there is an urgent need for our LPOEs to have the most up to date infrastructure and equipment like non-intrusive inspection (NII) scanners to disrupt evolving tactics used by traffickers who attempt to smuggle drugs across the border. Without significant infrastructure modernization, NII technology cannot be deployed at the DeConcini port, undermining CBP’s ability to carry out its critical mission. The full scope of work proposed in the feasibility study must be completed to meet the mission requirements identified by CBP and GSA.

Improving port infrastructure is a crucial part of ensuring dangerous drugs do not cross through our borders as well as growing our economy and ensuring the safety of CBP officers and personnel who work at the port. That’s why Congress has, on a bipartisan basis, supported investments in LPOE infrastructure listed on the five-year capital investment plan. We ask that you continue this critical work by ensuring the DeConcini LPOE project moves forward without delay.

Sincerely,



Mark Kelly
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator



Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress