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Mr. Thomas S. Winkowski
Action Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner Winkowski,

Two members of my staff spoke to Customs and Border Protection officials by phone during the Aug. 29 Arizona delegation briefing on the troubled, excessively costly CBP housing units recently built in Ajo. CBP, while not providing a formal written response to my Aug. 15 letter of inquiry to then-Secretary Napolitano, offered a slide presentation and verbal answers to certain questions during the briefing. I write today to seek further information on those housing units.

In my August letter, I asked for any information not yet public that might explain why the high cost of the housing units – approximately \$15 million to build just 21 modestly sized houses and lease 20 park-model trailer homes, as the *Arizona Republic* reported – is justified. Most similar homes in the area sell for around \$100,000, and DHS said in a statement earlier this year that housing is not used as a recruitment tool to attract applicants. I respectfully request the information CBP used to calculate the value and condition of properties available in the Ajo area.

The slide show offered to my staff does not provide any information about the number of units occupied, dates of occupancy, or total rent collected per unit. Nor does it illuminate the original purpose of the units at the Shadow Ridge RV Resort. Please indicate in writing whether they were intended to be permanent or temporary, how many were filled at the height of occupancy, how many are currently occupied and whether they will be moved to Texas as indicated Aug. 29.

I ask that you respond no later than Jan. 31 to provide my staff and I with timely information to inform my constituents and support our work on their behalf. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter.

Very sincerely,


Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress