

Border Infrastructure and Jobs Act of 2011

Bill's Purpose

1 in 11 Arizonans are out of work. **To get Arizonans and Americans everywhere back to work, I propose a five-point plan** to strengthen cross-border trade, modernize and expand border infrastructure, adequately staff ports of entry, invest in innovation and revitalize small businesses. Together, these initiatives can restore growth, spur job creation and build momentum toward economic recovery for border communities and our nation as a whole.

This jobs plan builds on my longstanding efforts to create jobs and improve the lives of Arizona's working families.

Strengthen Cross-Border Trade

A strong trade relationship with Mexico is critical to leading the United States out of recession and creating good middle-class jobs. Mexico is America's third largest trading partner and some 22 states depend on Mexico as their No. 1 or No.2 export market. **235,700 jobs in Arizona alone rely on trade with Mexico.**

To strengthen cross-border trade, **my bill will establish the United States-Mexico Economic Partnership Commission (EPC)**, whose purpose is to strengthen economic development and commerce along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

Businesses rely on on-time inventory. Border delays hurt businesses and hinder investment in the border region. Without compromising border security we should fund, develop and expand programs that promote the legitimate facilitation of goods across our border. **My bill also strengthens cross-border trade by establishing a Port Security and Trade Facilitation Grant.** This grant expands the access of trusted shipper programs to small and medium-sized businesses.

Modernize and Expand Border Infrastructure

Long-term underinvestment in infrastructure is having an increasingly negative effect on the ability of the United States and its industries to compete in the global economy. Inadequate infrastructure makes businesses less efficient, hurting job creation and economic recovery.

I have consistently worked to make sure we invest in infrastructure projects that create jobs, and as a member of Congress **I brought back \$200 million for the Mariposa Port of Entry Reconfiguration project.**

Building on that success, my bill will fund pending border infrastructure projects:

- \$80 million for the San Luis I POE
- \$110 million for Douglas POE
- \$50 million for the International Outfall Interceptor (IOI) Rehabilitation and Nogales Wash Channel

- \$100 million in renewable energy retrofits at land ports of entry
- \$100 million in federal transportation funds aimed at relieving congestion, facilitating trade, and maximizing security in border communities

Adequately Staff Ports of Entry

I strongly believe our ports of entry are a critical component of ongoing efforts to enhance the security and economic development of Arizona and our nation.

Trade between the United States and Mexico creates and supports jobs for millions of Americans and Mexicans. A recent study by the Arizona Office of Tourism confirmed that Mexican visitors spend more than \$7.3 million per day in Arizona. **My bill requires the immediate addition of 500 CBP officers to Arizona's land ports of entry and establishes the Southwest Border Strategy for Security and Prosperity**, under which the Secretary of Homeland Security will conduct a thorough review of CBP's current staffing model and make recommendations to reflect current needs. The secretary would also be required to make an assessment of the negative economic impact, if any, on the United States due to wait times at land ports of entry along the southern border.

Invest in Innovation

We need to prioritize proven technologies to keep America safe. My bill makes cost-effective investments in long-term technological infrastructure to facilitate travel and commerce and allow efficient inspection of vehicles entering the U.S.

Small Business Revitalization

The fastest way to spur economic growth in our border communities is to revitalize our businesses and reemploy our workers. They should be able to earn a living and put dollars right back into our local economy. **My bill establishes the Border Small Business Revitalization Grant Program**, which will stimulate employment opportunities and capital investment in border communities. **My bill also creates local jobs by mandating that at least 30 percent of labor for any federal contract or subcontract is performed by a local subcontractor.**