



June 23, 2010

The Honorable Raul Grijalva
US House of Representatives
14430 Longworth HOB
Washington, D.C. 20515

RE: CBP Staffing Request

Dear Congressman Grijalva,

We have been informed that President Obama, in his Fiscal Year 2010 Budget Amendment request, is requesting \$6.5 million to pay for 30 new Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers. On behalf of the Greater Nogales Santa Cruz County Port Authority (the Port Authority), I write to urge you to work with your colleagues and the Administration to dramatically increase the funding request for CBP officers.

As part of the amendment submitted by the President, the Administration is requesting an additional 1,000 Border Patrol Officers, 160 Immigration and Citizenship Enforcement (ICE) officers. We are 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 are 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 Yet our ports of entry are outdated, lack the necessary staffing, and are in need of additional proven technologies to effectively and efficiently enforce the laws and manage the ports of entry.

To put the 30 officers being requested by the President we are estimating 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.

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

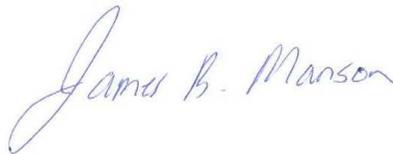
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who crosses the border daily to wait in excess of 2 to 4 hours to cross the border in one round trip. There is nothing worse than being stuck in line to cross the border and seeing booths that are not being staffed and operated.

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.

Staffing to need is the key. To say that CBP only needs an additional 30 officers is a severe underestimation of the need at the border. We are planning a visit to Washington in the near future to communicate this urgent need

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

cc: The Honorable Silvestre Reyes, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Ed Pastor, US House of Representatives
The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords, US House of Representatives