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July 5, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20528

The Honorable Chris Magnus
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Commissioner Chris Magnus,

I write to express concern over the deployment from U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Program Management Office Directorate (PMOD) of the 22-Meter Persistent Ground Surveillance System Aerostat blimp over the city of Nogales, Arizona that will provide around-the-clock aerial surveillance seven days a week. According to reports this deployment came without notice or consultation with local city officials or other local community stakeholders. It is critical that CBP meaningfully engage with community members impacted by border surveillance technologies, such as local governments and Tribal officials, migrant rights and civil rights experts, and local residents.

CBP's only statement on the deployment failed to address residents' well-founded concerns over invasion of privacy. Border surveillance technologies have been used to track residents of border regions and impede their rights while being justified as "humane" mechanisms for immigration enforcement. Consequently, as the use of [border surveillance technologies](#) has increased there has also been an increase of death rates of migrants crossing the border.

As U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Program Management Office Directorate continues to operate and expand Persistent Ground Surveillance System Aerostat blimp's in Arizona, I urge you to hold public forums to ensure local governments, Tribal officials, migrant rights and civil rights experts, and local residents have an opportunity to hear from CBP about these types of

border surveillance technologies, provide the opportunity for stakeholders to express their concerns, and protect the privacy and civil rights of all impacted communities.

I look forward to working with you to ensure transparency and oversight prior to the deployment of new border surveillance technologies by the Department of Homeland Security. I appreciate your assistance on this urgent request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Raúl M. Grijalva". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above a solid horizontal line.

Raúl M. Grijalva

Member of Congress