

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

January 8, 2015

The Honorable Harold Rogers  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
H-305, the Capitol  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nita Lowey  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable John Carter  
Chairman  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
B-307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable David Price  
Ranking Member  
House Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers, Ranking Member Lowey, Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Price,

As Members of the Northern Border Caucus, we are committed to streamlining trade and travel while promoting security at our ports of entry, which are critical to the economic health of our communities. To that end, we were pleased that the Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee provided funds in Fiscal Year 2014 to hire 2,000 Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers to fill positions at air, land and sea ports throughout the country.

We thank you for supporting this initiative and write to request that the Committee include in its FY 2015 bill the \$46.497 million requested by the Department of Homeland Security to sustain these staffing increases.

As you know, our ability to promote the efficient flow of people and goods, while detecting criminal activity and terrorist threats, can only be realized through sufficient staffing and efficient protocols at the 329 ports of entry throughout our nation.

A 2013 report to CBP issued by the University of Southern California National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events found increased border staffing would offer significant economic benefits. It deemed that the addition of just 1 primary inspection officer at each of the 33 different ports of entry studied would result in a \$65.8 million increase in Gross Domestic Product, a \$21.2 million total in value of time savings and the creation of 1,094 jobs.

Furthermore, we ask that you provide all necessary funding to support the pre-inspection pilot project, which has helped to expedite the flow of commercial traffic by moving primary inspections to Canada at crossings in Buffalo, New York and Blaine, Washington. And if at the end of the pilot, the project is found to have merit, as we believe it will, we ask that the Committee support efforts to expand and make permanent the program at these and other ports of entry.

We appreciate your continued support for initiatives that seek to streamline traffic and the flow of goods in our communities and believe that continued efforts in these areas are replete with economic benefits.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins  
Member of Congress

Kevin Cramer  
Member of Congress

Suzan DelBene  
Member of Congress