

# United States Senate

May 13, 2009

The Honorable Daniel K. Inouye  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-128  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Thad Cochran  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
S-146A  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Robert C. Byrd  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
SD-135  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable George Voinovich  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
SH-125  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman and Ranking Members:

As the Appropriations Committee begins to mark up the fiscal year 2010 appropriations bill for Homeland Security, I respectfully request your attention to the following initiatives. I strongly support efforts to improve border security and disrupt the operations of transnational drug trafficking organizations. I also believe it is important to ensure adequate resources are dedicated to facilitating trade and enabling lawful crossings by residents living in communities throughout the border region.

In addition, pursuant to Senate Rules, I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has a pecuniary interest in any of the congressionally directed spending items that I have requested, consistent with the requirements of paragraph 9 of Rule XLIV of the Standing Rules of the Senate. I further certify that I have posted a description of the items requested on my official website, along with the accompanying justification.

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## CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

**Santa Teresa Port of Entry Improvements:** There are a variety of projects in the New Mexico-Chihuahua region that are increasing commercial and passenger vehicle traffic at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry in New Mexico. A new road was built on the Mexican side of the border to allow people to easily cross into the United States through the Jeronimo-Santa Teresa ports and to bypass the busy Juarez-El Paso corridor. The road has reduced the travel time from Cd. Juarez to the Jeronimo port from approximately one hour to about 15 minutes, and Mexico is currently in the process of paving the road and expanding it from two lanes to six lanes. In January 2009, passenger traffic reached 33,576 vehicles, the greatest volume in port history. In addition, industries are continuing to establish facilities in the area. For example, in early 2009 a Taiwanese computer manufacturing company began major operations just across from the Santa Teresa port. The facility, which currently employs about 5,000 people, will eventually employ over 18,000 workers and is acting as a magnet for companies on both sides of the border. By October 2009, the manufacturing company anticipates that it will send 207 northbound trucks per day—prior to the company beginning operations the total number of trucks that crossed per day at the port was approximately 160. To facilitate cross-border traffic and enhance economic development on both sides of the border, I respectfully request that the Committee include conference language urging Customs and Border Protection to increase passenger vehicle and commercial port hours of operation, and provide funding to build additional passenger vehicle lanes as indicated below:

**Commercial and Passenger Vehicle Hours of Operation:** (Report Language) Currently, Santa Teresa's commercial hours of operation are 8 a.m. – 8 p.m. on weekdays and its passenger vehicle hours are 6 a.m. – 12 a.m. daily. Extending commercial hours until midnight would allow the manufacture to ship its second shift production materials through the port while meeting the one-hour pre-notification required by CBP for incoming commercial traffic. The increase in passenger vehicle hours would accommodate traffic generated by the new road from Cd. Juarez to the Jeronimo port of entry. *Suggested Report Language:*

*“The Committee recognizes that passenger vehicle and commercial traffic at the Santa Teresa port of entry have significantly increased, and urges CBP to extend commercial hours of operation at the port to midnight Monday through Friday, and to increase passenger vehicle hours of operation to 24/7 daily.”*

**Passenger Vehicle Lanes and Inspection Booths:** (\$4 million) Funding would be used to construct two new passenger vehicle lanes and related inspection booths at the Santa Teresa Port of Entry in New Mexico. The lanes are necessary to adequately handle port traffic resulting from the new road from Cd. Juarez to Jeronimo and to alleviate long lines of traffic which already plague the port, especially during holidays when the wait is the greatest in this CBP district, sometimes exceeding four hours. *Suggested Account: CBP Facilities Management*

## FLETC

**Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC):** (\$332,986,000) FLETC provides the facilities, equipment, and support services necessary for the training of Federal law enforcement personnel. The Administration's Budget Request proposes to reduce overall FLETC funding to \$288,812,000 for FY10, which includes a decrease of \$43 million in maintenance and construction funding. The FLETC facility in Artesia, New Mexico, which focuses on providing advanced and specialized training for the U.S. Border Patrol, the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), and the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), requires a variety of infrastructure and security improvements to ensure it is able to adequately carry out its mission. I urge the Subcommittee to maintain the FY09 funding level for FLETC and to fund the following projects:

**FLETC-Artesia Infrastructure Improvements:** (\$10 million) Over the last four years there has been an approximately 400 percent increase in the training conducted at the Artesia facility. Due to this expanded growth, the facility utilizes land that lacks adequate infrastructure. The facility needs to extend sewer, water, natural gas and electrical infrastructure to the northwest corner of the Main Campus; provide sewer and natural gas to the Drivers Firearms complex; and pave roads to the 4X4 course. In order to remain in compliance with EPA standards, FLETC-Artesia can no longer rely on its existing septic system to provide sewer services. These improvements will enhance the facility's ability to support training exercises. *Suggested Account: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Acquisitions, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses*

**FLETC-Wide Security Enhancements:** (\$10 million) A post-9/11 security review highlighted significant security problems that need to be corrected at the various FLETC facilities. These security shortcomings hamper the ability of FLETC to protect staff and students, and increase the risk of physical and computer-generated threats. Funding would be used to build fencing, install cameras, implement monitoring systems, and upgrade computer technology at all four of the FLETC sites. *Suggested Account: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Salaries and Expenses*

**FLETC-Artesia Indoor Firearm Ranges:** (\$12 million) The Artesia facility lacks an indoor firearm range, which is necessary to ensure the continuity of training during inclement weather. Spring winds in excess of 50 miles an hour are not uncommon in the area and result in the postponement of training exercises. Indoor ranges would allow personnel to continue firearms training when weather problems arise and use training time more efficiently. *Suggested Account: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Acquisitions, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses*

**FLETC-Artesia Port of Entry Training:** (\$7 million) The Artesia facility currently utilizes temporary buildings that require the separate training of CBP and Border Patrol officers. Funding would be used to construct a replica Port of Entry that would allow training to be conducted together in a unified manner in a more real setting, which would improve officers' capabilities with respect to handling border crossing issues. *Suggested*

*Account: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Acquisitions, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses*

**FLETC-Artesia Auditorium Improvements:** (\$5 million) The existing auditorium lacks sufficient space to handle graduations and large-scale meetings. The auditorium currently seats 160 guest and students; however, graduations and mass meetings for government employees at Artesia range from 250 to 400 individuals. The completion of this auditorium would allow for up to 500 personnel to be seated in a professional environment during both graduations and large DHS meetings. *Suggested Account: Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Acquisitions, Construction, Improvements, and Related Expenses*

## NATIONAL PROTECTION AND PROGRAMS DIRECTORATE

**National Infrastructure Simulation and Analysis Center (NISAC):** (\$35 million) NISAC is the national center of expertise on critical infrastructure interdependency modeling, simulation, and analysis. The Center is comprised of DHS management personnel in Washington, D.C., and scientists, engineers, and economists at Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratory in New Mexico. NISAC's primary mission is to improve the understanding of the Nation's critical infrastructure by supporting DHS planning, protection, deterrence, response, and mitigation efforts for natural disasters and terrorism. Funding would be used to sustain the core NISAC mission (\$25 million) and to develop a cyber infrastructure initiative at the Center (\$10 million). These resources would ensure that DHS maintains the analytical and response capabilities it requires, including the ability to conduct integrated cyber infrastructure interdependency analysis. Protecting our Nation's infrastructure is essential to maintaining our country's economic prosperity and our national security. *Suggested Account: National Protection and Programs Directorate, Infrastructure Protection and Information Security*

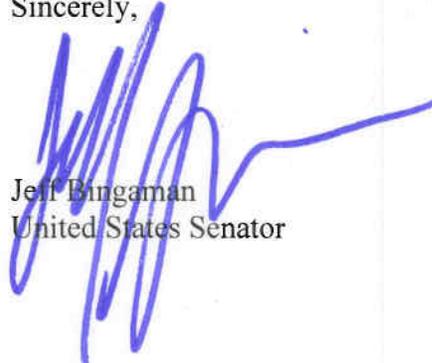
## OUTBOUND SMUGGLING

**Southbound Weapons and Currency Smuggling:** Criminal organizations operating along the border smuggle illegal narcotics into the United States and traffic weapons and drug proceeds back into Mexico. In order to reduce drug-related violence and disrupt the drug trade, it is essential that we aggressively work to prevent cartels from obtaining the weapons they use to violently maintain control over their operations and the revenue they use to finance their criminal enterprises. I strongly support the Administration's recent efforts to increase outbound inspections at ports of entry and enhance investigative capabilities, and I urge the Committee to support funding for these initiatives. However, we also must ensure there is adequate infrastructure and staffing at the ports of entry to prevent outbound smuggling efforts from hampering lawful cross-border traffic and international trade.

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I recognize that the Homeland Security Subcommittee has many requests to consider and I appreciate your consideration of these projects. If you need any additional information please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'JB', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jeff Bingaman  
United States Senator

JB/ss