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United States Senate

October 1, 2010

Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

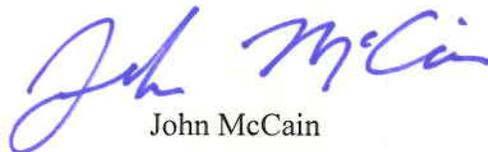
Dear Secretary Napolitano:

Thank you for your letter dated September 23, 2010. As you are well aware, the security of our southern border with Mexico is not only of the utmost concern to those living in Southern Arizona but a national security threat that should concern every citizen of this country. The dangers posed by Mexican transnational drug cartels to the United States, as well as to the stability of the Mexican government, continue to drive my efforts to obtain additional resources for the Department of Homeland Security. Throughout this effort, I, and likeminded Senators, have met resistance from some within the Administration that believe no additional resources are necessary to secure the border— the deployment of 6,000 National Guardsman being just one example.

We both agree that the increase in border security personnel and construction of new infrastructure that began over five years ago, along with the downturn in the economy, has reduced the number of individuals illegally crossing the border in Arizona. However, even with these improvements, I do not know anyone living along the border that believes it is adequately under control. While apprehensions, a fundamentally flawed means of measuring illegal border traffic, were down in FY2008 compared to previous years, over 216,000 illegal border crossers have been apprehended so far this year in the Tucson Sector and many border residents report increases in the incidents of these crossers carrying weapons and drugs. These continued levels of illegal trafficking confirm to those living in southern Arizona that that the border is still not secure.

I look forward to continue working with you to combat the threats posed by transnational drug cartels. I hope that your experience in Arizona provides a unique understanding of the seriousness of these threats and I am confident you will continue to dedicate the time and energy necessary to fully secure the southern border.

Sincerely,



John McCain

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