

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 25, 2010

Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We are writing out of concern over the frequent, often excessive wait times in the north-bound lanes at the Deconcini Port of Entry in Nogales. As you know, the economy of Nogales, Arizona is heavily dependent on cross border traffic, with the majority of the city's sales tax revenue generated by shoppers from Mexico. The long wait times to cross the border are having real, adverse effects on the economy of Nogales.

Many of the complaints our offices have received on this matter cite the lack of available officers to staff the pedestrian and passenger vehicle lanes during busy crossing times. According to a recent article in the *Nogales International* a CBP spokesman blames the inability to fully staff the lanes on lack of personnel. He stated, "We have people in the pipeline who have been hired, but it still takes a while to get them through the hiring process, the background investigations, and the training and get them out to the ports of entry." After several years of increased funding, it is disappointing that CBP is unable to fully support and staff its infrastructure.

We are sure you agree that securing our borders should be the top priority of CBP and that the drug related violence that threatens our border communities must be combated with all available resources. With that said, businesses and law abiding citizens should be able to cross the border in an efficient manner. We look forward to receiving your response on how best to address this issue.

Thank you in advance for your timely reply to this inquiry.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senate



Jon Kyl
United States Senate