

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 14, 2016

The Honorable Denise Turner Roth
Administrator of the General Services Administration
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F St NW
Washington, DC 20006

Dear Administrator Roth,

We write to request urgent action regarding the Grand Tunnel underneath the DeConcini Land Port of Entry in Nogales, Arizona. The City of Nogales, Arizona, is concerned that the cross-border drainage tunnel is in jeopardy of collapsing.

Last month our offices organized a briefing in Washington, DC, with local stakeholders and representatives from state and federal agencies to address the Grand Tunnel damage. It was conveyed by the State Department and GSA at this meeting that no federal agency has assessed the immediate risk or conducted an inspection of the tunnel's structural integrity.

Any damage or failure of the Grand Tunnel that could close the DeConcini Port would have dire consequences for cross-border trade, tourism, and customs enforcement. As you know, the coming monsoon season could bring torrential rains and floods that will place the Grand Tunnel at further risk.

We ask that you please answer the following questions:

1. How soon will GSA be able to inspect and report on the current risk to the tunnel?
2. What is the timeline for completion of the current study assessing the structural integrity of the Grand Tunnel residing under GSA jurisdiction?
3. Could this process be expedited given the elevated risk to public safety and border security?
4. What measures would GSA take should emergency repairs be needed and what would the timeline be?

Given the reported urgency, we would ask your respond as soon as possible. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John McCain
United States Senator



Jeff Flake
United States Senator