Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 15, 2010

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi:

As you craft supplemental appropriations legislation to fund the operations and provide for the safe return of our service members fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq, we ask you to also consider needed investments in the security of our nation's border with Mexico.

The recent murders of American citizens connected to the U.S. consulate in Ciudad Juarez and the brazen murder of an Arizona rancher on American soil highlight the growing insecurity faced by Americans living along the border with Mexico. Over the past three years, a drug war raging within a stone's throw of American territory has led to the murders of an estimated 15,000 people. Drug cartels now fight each other – and Mexican military and law enforcement – with startling ferocity and sophisticated weapons and tactics for control over narcotics distribution, including significant networks inside the United States. In order to ensure the security of Americans, we ask you to include the following items in the upcoming supplemental appropriations bill for fiscal year 2010.

$30 million for the National Guard Counter Drug program. The National Guard Counterdrug Program conducts a full spectrum campaign that bridges the gap between Department of Defense and Non-DoD institutions in the fight against illicit drugs and transnational threats to the homeland. The program contributes military support for local, state and federal Law Enforcement Agencies. The program's goal is to provide the nation with a drug-free, mission-ready force to defend the interests of its citizens at home and abroad. The soldiers and airmen involved in the program work at all levels of government to anticipate, deter, and defeat threats along our border in order to enhance national security and protect our society. We are requesting an additional $30 million for activities along the U.S.-Mexico Border.

$50 million for Operation Stonegarden. Operation Stonegarden provides resources to enhance law enforcement preparedness and operational readiness along the borders of the U.S. The program is designed to promote cooperation and coordination between federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies in a joint mission to secure the U.S. borders. Since this source of funding is often the only federal resource available to local law enforcement agencies in rural areas, an increase is needed to keep up with the law enforcement demands of the border, especially in a time when we are trying to prevent the spread on violence from Mexico. We are

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requesting an additional $50 Million in FY10 for Operation Stonegarden for the U.S. Mexico border.

$25 million for the U.S. Border Patrol. The Border Patrol's goal is to establish effective control over America's border with Mexico through the use of personnel, tactical infrastructure, and technology. With assaults against Border Patrol increased from last year's levels and violence raging across the border in Mexico, further investments are needed to equip agents with the tools they need to secure the border and ensure their own safety. Funding will go toward forward operating bases, communications equipment, surveillance equipment, officer support equipment and other resources. We are requesting an additional $25 million for Border Patrol activities along the U.S.-Mexico border.

$32.2 million to hire new Border Patrol agents. CBP is responsible for protecting our nation's borders, and ensuring robust levels of agents in the field is critical to achieving operational control of the border. The recent sharp increase in violence in the border region underscores the dangers faced by agents in the field, and the need for more Customs and Border Protection agents has never been more prevalent. We are requesting $32.2 million for 207 additional Border Patrol agents.

Thank you for your consideration of this critically important request. We look forward to working with you to ensure the security of our borders.

Sincerely,

John Hall

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Tim Ryan

Harry E. Mitchell

Charles P. Craig