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**U.S. REP. GABRIELLE GIFFORDS ANNOUNCES
MAJOR CONCESSION FROM BORDER PATROL ON I-
19 CHECKPOINT**

*Tucson lawmaker will support interim checkpoint 9 miles south of
Green Valley, calls for independent accountability study of checkpoint
effectiveness*

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords announced a major concession from the U.S. Border Patrol regarding their plans to build a permanent checkpoint on Interstate 19.

At the congresswoman's insistence, the Border Patrol has agreed to change course and discard its initial plan to build a large, permanent checkpoint between kilometers 50 and 52, near Amado.

In a letter to Giffords, Tucson Sector Chief Robert Gilbert agreed to operate an interim checkpoint at kilometer 41.5 or 42, near the current facility, which is nine miles south of Green Valley.

"This is a significant concession. It will not please everyone, but I believe it goes a long way in meeting the concerns of residents along I-19 while also giving the Border Patrol the tools it needs to do their job," Giffords said. "The Border Patrol

responded to my concerns and the outcry from citizens that a checkpoint should not be located in a densely-populated area and should be as close to the border as possible.”

The Border Patrol decision was praised by Pima County Sherriff Clarence Dupnik, whose agency is responsible for maintaining law and order in the Green Valley area.

“Congresswoman Giffords did what any good public servant is supposed to do – she identified a problem and gave the public a seat at the table to discuss solutions,” Dupnik said. “I believe checkpoints are a valuable tool in making our communities a safer place to live. I am pleased that Congresswoman Giffords does as well. Not everyone will agree with her, but she has done the right thing.”

Giffords also announced that she will ask the Government Accountability Office to provide an independent, third party evaluation of the effectiveness of checkpoints in the Tucson Sector and other parts of the country. Joining in this request will be Sen. Jon Kyl and Congressman Raul Grijalva. This study will also look at how a permanent checkpoint fits into a comprehensive border security plan for the Tucson Sector.

The change in the Border Patrol plans comes after a series of meetings between Giffords, the Border Patrol and a group of concerned citizens brought together by the congresswoman. This group, the Community Workgroup on Southern Arizona Checkpoints, examined every aspect of the Border Patrol’s plans.

“The report reflects the fact that there are differences of opinion about how best to secure Arizona’s border,” Giffords said. “But it also demonstrates that community involvement, creativity and the willingness to try new ideas is absolutely essential in confronting the crisis on our borders.”

A statement by Giffords on checkpoints, Gilbert’s letter, the Community Workgroup report and other supporting documents can be found on the congresswoman’s website, <http://giffords.house.gov>.