

TCA 30/2-C



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

*Office of the Chief Patrol Agent
2430 S. Swan Rd
Tucson, Arizona 85711
(520) 748-3000*

September 20, 2007

The Honorable Gabrielle Giffords
U.S. Congresswoman
1161 N. Swan Rd, Ste 112
Tucson, AZ 85712

Dear Congresswoman Giffords:

On September 7, 2007, my office forwarded our initial response to the recommendations put forth by the workgroup as to how we would include those recommendations into our decision making process. Subsequently, we have reassessed the location of the interim checkpoint and the size of the permanent facility. Although these issues were raised during our outreach efforts and workgroup meetings, they were not specifically referenced in the final recommendation document.

Ongoing planning for the improved interim checkpoint in the Kilometer 50-53 area on Interstate 19 stimulated considerable discussion necessitating the reconsideration of the site location. After revisiting proposed site locations, the Sector has determined the interim checkpoint will best serve the operational requirements of the Border Patrol and the concerns of surrounding communities by remaining at Kilometer 42 or just south at Kilometer 41.5. This will ensure that operational adjustments and technology investments already made at the Kilometer 42 site will continue to contribute to the effective mitigation of traffic associated with the checkpoint.

The size of the proposed Interstate 19 permanent checkpoint, which has been represented to be modeled after the existing Laredo C-29 Checkpoint, has raised concerns from the surrounding communities. I would like to reassure you that although our office has not identified a location for a permanent checkpoint facility that we will seek to minimize the size of the footprint to the extent possible while maintaining the operational ability to effectively and efficiently facilitate legitimate traffic. I will strive to balance the expressed desire to reduce the footprint of the checkpoint to the extent possible, while ensuring that the necessary tools are available to my agents to maximize their enforcement efforts. I believe that we can achieve a compromise that will serve both interests well.

Honorable Gabrielle Giffords

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I am committed to continuing research, and as environmental, engineering and traffic studies are conducted, my team will evaluate the information and continue to keep you informed of our decision making process. Many factors have been, and will continue to be carefully considered, to include the input of the Workgroup, as we move forward.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "RW Gilbert", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Robert W. Gilbert
Chief Patrol Agent