

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

Thursday, December 6, 2007

The Honorable David Walker
Comptroller General of the United States
U.S. Government Accountability Office
441 G St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20548

Dear Mr. Walker:

We write to request that the Government Accountability Office (GAO) undertake a study of interior checkpoints operated by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to interdict undocumented persons and contraband.

Through this study, which would build on the GAO's prior work in *Border Patrol: Available Data on Interior Checkpoints Suggests Differences in Sector Performance* (GAO-05-435), we hope to gain additional information about elements and characteristics of interior checkpoints that contribute or might contribute to their effectiveness and to determine whether there are any adverse effects on surrounding communities that can be mitigated by the CBP.

Specifically, we would like the study to address the following questions:

1. What information is currently collected and documented by CBP to evaluate the effectiveness of checkpoints? What quality control measures are in place for the collection of this data? What actions has CBP taken to develop meaningful performance measures to improve the productivity and effectiveness of interior checkpoints, and to communicate the resulting data to interested parties, as recommended by the GAO in GAO-05-435?
2. What do available data and analyses show about the operational effectiveness of existing CBP permanent checkpoints over the past three years? Does the data show differences in measures of effectiveness and impact by size (personnel assigned/ footprint), location, infrastructure or other factors?
3. What do available federal, state and county data and analyses show about the operational effectiveness and local community impacts of the existing CBP interim checkpoint at kilometer 42 of the I-19 highway in the Tucson Sector from November, 2006 to December, 2007? In particular, what does this data reveal about CBP apprehensions, criminal activity, public disturbances, acts of violence, and property damage in the four square miles that flank each side of the interim checkpoint?

4. Are there formal, articulated factors that guide CBP deliberations on the placement of internal checkpoints? If so, to what extent do those factors include anticipated impacts on communities in the vicinity of the checkpoint? What formal efforts does CBP undertake to liaison with the local community? Are checkpoint staff a part of any liaison activity? Has CBP identified any "best practices" in reaching out to communities impacted by internal checkpoints?
5. What federal, state, or local data exist that demonstrate the impact that internal checkpoints have on residential and commercial areas in the vicinity? What factors, if any, alter the community impact of checkpoints? What effect do internal checkpoints have on criminal activity in the vicinity?

We appreciate your assistance and look forward to working with you on this very important subject. To discuss this project, please contact Michael Dougherty in Senator Kyl's office at (202) 224-2565 or Maura Policelli in Congresswoman Giffords office at (202) 225-2542.

Sincerely,



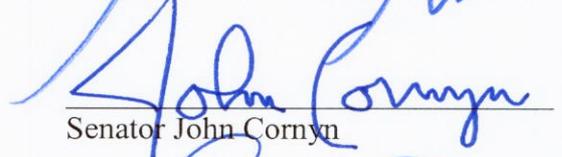
Senator Jon Kyl



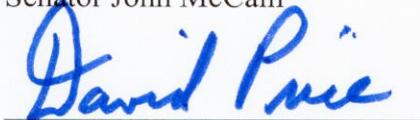
Congresswoman Gabrielle Giffords



Senator John McCain



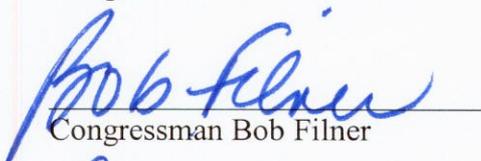
Senator John Cornyn



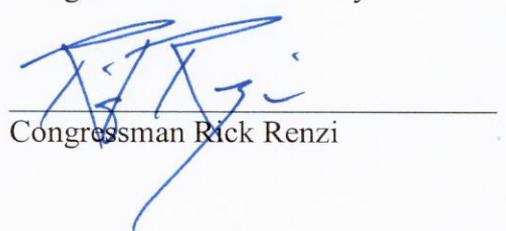
Congressman David Price



Congressman Silvestre Reyes



Congressman Bob Filner



Congressman Rick Renzi



Congressman Ciro Rodriquez