



SMART BORDER COALITION™

March 3, 2017

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Appropriations Committee
2000 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mike Quigley
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Financial Services
and General Government
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: SUPPORT FOR FUNDING CALEXICO WEST PORT OF ENTRY

Dear Chairman Graves & Ranking Member Quigley,

We are writing in support of funding for the Calexico West Land Port of Entry Renovation and Expansion Project at the President's FY 2017 Budget level. This project would strengthen trade, commerce, and security along the US-Mexico border and is of the utmost importance to our region and our Nation.

Mexico is California's top trade partner and improving the Calexico West LPOE is an essential part of enhancing California's economy. Cross-border trade between California and Mexico, both imports and exports, was valued at more than \$190 billion in 2011. According to a 2007 study by the Imperial Valley Association of Governments, California businesses lost an estimated \$436 million and 5,639 jobs directly attributable to long border crossing wait times. We believe that updating this border crossing will encourage economic growth and ultimately help create jobs that are critically important to our region, specifically for Imperial County, which had a reported yearly average unemployment rate of 25.2 percent in 2013.


The existing LPOE was constructed in 1974 and serves as a pedestrian and vehicle inspection facility. More than 16,000 privately-owned vehicles (POVs) and 20,000 pedestrians enter the United States through this LPOE on a daily basis. The existing facilities are undersized relative to existing traffic loads and obsolete in terms of inspection officer safety and border security. In addition, the space required for modern inspection technologies is not available, the workspace is too small to accommodate additional staff, systems, and equipment required at the facility, and the Department of Homeland Security's ability to accomplish its rapidly changing mission is seriously compromised by the inadequacy of the existing facilities.

The Calexico West LPOE project includes new pedestrian processing and POV inspection facilities that will consist of 16 northbound lanes and five southbound lanes, a new administration space, a new head house, 32 secondary inspection stations serving northbound and southbound traffic, and a total of 340 parking spaces. The project will be constructed in two

phases. Phase 2 will consist of the balance of the project including additional site work, a pedestrian processing facility, administrative offices, five southbound POV inspection lanes, and six additional northbound POV inspection lanes, with an estimated cost of \$275 million for construction.

Thank you for your consideration of this funding request. Completing this project will improve domestic supply chains, strengthen our national security, and facilitate economic growth, not only for the greater region, but also for the entire nation.

Sincerely,



Steve Williams
Co-Chair



Jose Larroque
Co-Chair

Smart Border Coalition
2508 Historic Decatur Road, Suite 130
San Diego, CA 92106
(619) 814-1386