

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

February 11, 2021

Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

As your administration works on your fiscal year 2022 budget proposal, we ask that robust funding be included in the General Services Administration budget request for land ports of entry construction projects critical for our state of Arizona.

In Arizona, more than 8.5 million passed through a port of entry in 2019 and, despite border crossing restrictions, 423,000 commercial trucks passing through Arizona's ports of entry in 2020, up from 416,000 in 2019¹. Census Bureau estimates indicate that \$29 billion worth of goods and services crossed through one of Arizona's ports of entry in 2019, and that cross-border trade is critical to the national economy and can help us recover from the COVID-19 economic downturn. Ports of entry also play a critical role in protecting our communities and securing our border. Most seizures of illicit drugs at our border occur at ports of entry², and updated ports are better prepared to combat the flow of illegal goods and drugs.

Each year, the General Services Administration and Customs and Border Protection produce a five-year capital investment plan, which lists the ports of entry projects most in need of federal support. The most recent five-year plan included three ports of entry projects in Arizona, including the San Luis I Port of Entry modernization project, the construction of a new Commercial Port of Entry in Douglas, AZ, and the update of the Raul H. Castro Port of Entry. Completion of these projects, in addition to a critically needed update to the DeConcini Port of Entry in Nogales, AZ, will facilitate additional cross-border trade, improve our nation's border security, and help our state and nation recover from COVID-19.

¹ <https://www.bts.gov/content/border-crossingentry-data>

² <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

As your administration prepares its fiscal year 2022 budget request, we request that robust funding be provided for critical ports of entry construction and update projects in southern Arizona. We also ask that your administration take all possible steps to work with the government of Mexico to prioritize these port of entry updates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kyrsten Sinema".

Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senator

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Mark Kelly".

Mark Kelly
United States Senator