

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

April 24, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable Edward Forst
Administrator
U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F. Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20450

Dear Secretary Mullin and Administrator Forst,

We write to underscore the urgent need to advance the modernization of the Dennis DeConcini Land Port of Entry (LPOE) in Nogales, Arizona. As one of the busiest ports of entry along the U.S.-Mexico border, the DeConcini LPOE is critical to our nation's economic vitality and border security. We respectfully request your leadership in accelerating all remaining pre-construction activities and ensuring the project is fully prioritized within the upcoming General Services Administration (GSA) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Five-Year Capital Investment Plan.

The DeConcini LPOE serves as a vital link between Arizona and Mexico, facilitating millions of lawful crossings each year. In 2025 alone, the port processed more than 7 million personal vehicle passengers and approximately 3.5 million pedestrians. Despite this volume, the facility's core infrastructure has not kept pace with current operational demands. Originally constructed in 1931 and last significantly updated in 1994, U.S. CBP has confirmed that the current facility no longer meets mission requirements.

Current site constraints—including limited space, outdated configuration, and proximity to the International Outfall Interceptor and the stormwater tunnels that flow directly under the facility—have created both operational inefficiencies and safety concerns. Flooding events and sanitary sewer overflows disrupt operations every monsoon season and exposes CBP personnel to hazardous conditions. In addition, with the facility located right at the international boundary, there is simply no space for the effective deployment of modern inspection and pre-clearance systems, including non-intrusive inspection (NII) technologies that are essential to CBP's mission.

Congress recognized the importance of this project by funding a feasibility study in 2022. That study, completed in close coordination with CBP and regional stakeholders, outlines a comprehensive modernization approach aligned with operational, security, and workforce needs. We understand the project is now awaiting the issuance of a Notice to Proceed for the required National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) review. We strongly encourage you to expedite this step and all subsequent actions necessary to move the project forward without delay.

The urgency of this investment is further underscored by the role Nogales plays in national security. The region has been a major corridor for illicit drug trafficking, including fentanyl, with seizures in this area at times

accounting for a significant share of total interdictions across the Southwest border and the nation. Ensuring CBP has access to modern infrastructure and advanced screening technologies at DeConcini is essential to counter evolving smuggling tactics and protect our communities. The battle against the flow of narcotics has shifted from those measured by the bundle and the ton to those that measured in the thousands of pills that are strapped around a smugglers' waist. The DeConcini LPOE is at the forefront of this fight, and we must ensure that enforcement personnel have the best facilities, tools and training to do their job to the best of their ability.

Modernizing the DeConcini LPOE is a once-in-a-generation opportunity to strengthen border security, enhance lawful trade and travel, and improve working conditions for frontline personnel. However, these outcomes can only be achieved if the project is implemented at the scale identified in the feasibility study. Any reduction in scope would compromise both operational effectiveness and long-term return on investment.

We appreciate your continued commitment to strengthening our nation's border infrastructure and stand ready to support efforts to advance this critical project. This is not a Nogales project, this is a national asset in desperate need of investment. We respectfully urge you to prioritize the DeConcini LPOE modernization and ensure it proceeds on an accelerated timeline.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter, I look forward to your response and to ensuring that our CBP Agents and Officers have all the tools they need to continue protecting the Homeland.

Sincerely,



Juan Ciscomani
Member of Congress



Abraham J. Hamadeh
Member of Congress



Greg Stanton
Member of Congress