

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

**DELEGATION OFFICE
STATE OF NEW MEXICO
HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510
(202) 224 - 8962**

May 8, 2024

The Honorable Robin Carnahan
Administrator of the U.S. General Services Administration
1800 F St. NW
Washington, D.C. 20405

Acting Commissioner Troy Miller
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Administrator Carnahan and Acting Commissioner Miller,

We applaud U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and the General Services Administration's (GSA) work in completing the feasibility study for the modernization and expansion of the Santa Teresa Land Port of Entry (STLPOE) and the findings produced as a result of that study. And now that the feasibility study has been completed, we urge you to adhere as closely to its findings as possible, to treat STLPOE's modernization and expansion as a top priority for both agencies, and to expeditiously place the project in both CBP's and GSA's 5-Year Capital Investment Plan as such.

We urge you to immediately begin the investigations necessary for you to determine whether the project will require an Environmental Impact Statement or an Environmental Assessment to be in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and to begin the formal work of conducting those assessments, if necessary.

Additionally, the scope of the proposed expansion of—twelve additional northbound commercial lanes, two additional southbound commercial lanes, and six additional northbound passenger lanes—suggests that this project has the potential to dramatically strengthen the United States' supply chains, facilitating increased domestic production and improving the economic well-being of New Mexicans and all Americans. Congress has a strong interest in enabling Santa Teresa to play the role of a keystone port along our southern border, as it is already a critical facilitator of international trade with our nation's largest trading partner - despite outdated infrastructure and only three northbound commercial lanes. Therefore, we also

urge you to begin work on the site acquisition and design prospectus immediately and submit the prospectus to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as quickly as possible, so that OMB can in turn submit their authorization to Congress for approval.

Lastly, we request that both CBP and GSA provide updates to the community and to Congress on the project's prioritization, any changes, if any, to the specifications of the proposed expansion and modernization outlined in the feasibility study, the progress you have made towards completing an environmental assessment and site acquisition and design prospectus, and whether you believe this project will require an updated Presidential Permit.

We strongly support the findings of the feasibility study and believe that STPLOE can serve as a model for land ports along the southern border. We urge you to closely adhere to the feasibility study's findings in your internal discussions over the project's prioritization and to place STLPOE's modernization and expansion in your respective 5-Year Capital Investment Plans as highly and as quickly as possible. And as you continue your work throughout this process, we stand ready to assist you in any way we can to expedite it and move it closer to completion.

Sincerely,



MARTIN HEINRICH
United States Senator



BEN RAY LUJÁN
United States Senator



GABE VASQUEZ
United States Representative