

January 22, 2010

Hon. Max Baucus
Chairman
Committee On Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510-6200



Border Trade Alliance

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Dear Chairman Baucus:

We write to you today in your capacity as chairman of the Senate Finance Committee to urge you quickly to consider the nomination of Alan Bersin, whom President Obama has nominated to serve as commissioner of the Customs and Border Protection agency.

While the Border Trade Alliance passes no judgment on Mr. Bersin's nomination, we strongly believe that CBP is an agency that needs to fill its commissioner post quickly.

Recent events have made clear that a CBP commissioner is critically needed. In the last month alone we've seen an attempted terrorist attack on a U.S. airliner, an opening of a new international bridge on the U.S. southern border and, unfortunately, continued smuggling of illegal drugs and human cargo. Meanwhile, the trade community is operating in an environment where trade facilitation has not been placed at the same level of priority as security within CBP.

We hope that the Senate Finance Committee will consider Mr. Bersin's nomination promptly, and we call on you and your colleagues to ensure that a strong commitment to trade facilitation be a required qualification for whoever is confirmed as the next CBP commissioner.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathy Neal', written in a cursive style.

Kathy Neal
Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nelson Balido', written in a cursive style.

Nelson Balido
President