



February 22, 2023

Hon. Jim Jordan
Chairman
U.S. House Committee on the Judiciary
2138 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Jordan:

On behalf of the public and private sector members of the Border Trade Alliance, we write to you in anticipation of the upcoming field hearing in Yuma, Arizona, where you will examine the Department of Homeland Security's response to the security situation at the United States-Mexico border. As an organization that for more than 35 years has sought to craft public policy that promotes the facilitation of cross-border trade and commerce in a secure and efficient manner, we would urge that the committee keep in mind trade's indispensable contribution to the region and the broader U.S. economy.

As you know, the Yuma region is a vital hub for cross-border trade and commerce, with many businesses and industries relying on the smooth flow of goods and services across the border. And Yuma is not unique; from San Diego, California to Brownsville, Texas, ports of entry all along the U.S.-Mexico border bustle with commercial activity as goods move throughout the manufacturing process to their point of destination, all while generating thousands of jobs on both sides of the border.

Any disruptions to this flow could have far-reaching consequences for the local and national economy and could negatively impact the livelihoods of the individuals who depend on the movement of goods. As you contemplate potential new security strategies, we would urge that they not interrupt legal trade. Our organization and its members have observed how even temporary closures of ports of entry by DHS, for example, have caused severe shipping delays, putting upward pressure on prices in a period of already high inflation, a reminder of the need for policymakers to strike a prudent balance between efficiency and security.

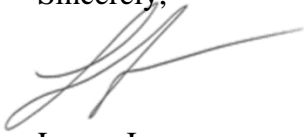
The BTA believes this admittedly difficult job should remain in the domain of the federal government. States wading into border enforcement has resulted in shipping delays and risks the development of a patchwork of policies from state to state that would be difficult to navigate for private businesses and that would degrade the competitiveness of the border region.

We respectfully urge you to keep this need for balance between facilitation and interdiction at the forefront and consider the needs of the trade community as you conduct your field hearing and assess ways to improve security along the border. We believe strongly that it is possible to address security concerns while also facilitating trade and commerce, and that both can be achieved in a way that benefits the region and the rest of the country.

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We wish you the best for a productive field hearing in Yuma and we offer our decades of experience in cross-border affairs as a resource to your committee.

Sincerely,



Lance Jungmeyer
Chairman



Britton Mullen
President