



November 1, 2023

Hon. Henry Cuellar  
2372 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cuellar:

The Border Trade Alliance writes to express its support for H.R. 3135, the Land Border Port of Entry Modernization Act, legislation that we believe will significantly improve the port of entry infrastructure at the United States' land borders and enhance the country's economic competitiveness by facilitating trade and enhancing security.

This legislation will establish a trust fund that will be used to (1) construct new ports of entry, (2) expand and improve existing ports of entry, (3) procure technology for inspecting and processing traffic passing through ports of entry, and (4) hire U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff. The Department of Homeland Security will also establish the Land Port of Entry Modernization Oversight Board to advise DHS on how to use the trust fund and to review the trust fund's expenditures.

As you know, there is a reliable federal funding stream for seaport facilities, however no such consistent source of federal resources exists for land border ports. As a result, the ability of the nation's land border ports to keep pace with increasing trade volumes is made more difficult due to outmoded infrastructure that contributes to shipping delays, increased costs, and, ultimately, upward pressure on consumer prices. With the establishment of the trust fund, port of entry construction and improvements can rely on more consistent funding, as can the procurement of inspection technology and CBP hiring, which will not only facilitate trade and travel, but will also greatly aid the agency's interdiction efforts.

The Border Trade Alliance applauds you and your bipartisan group of cosponsors for prioritizing the needs of our land ports of entry. Modern, properly resourced ports of entry are essential to the economic health of the entire country. We look forward to working with you and the cosponsors to see this important legislation through to passage.

Sincerely,

Britton Mullen  
President