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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

October 18, 2017

The Honorable John Boozman  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Jon Tester  
Ranking Member  
Senate Appropriations Committee  
Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Boozman and Ranking Member Tester:

The work of Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Officers at our ports of entry is critical to prevent the illegal trafficking of narcotics, contraband, and people into the United States. The majority of drugs and other illicit materials come into our country through our ports of entry. CBP Officers are the ones responsible for finding and stopping them.

While the President has proposed increasing border security by expanding the Border Patrol and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the President's Fiscal Year 2018 budget did not request funding to address the current CBP Officer staffing shortage. According to CBP's Resource Optimization Strategy, there is a current shortfall of 2,107 officers.

As you know, I rarely write to support increases in funding, but this is too important. I urge the Appropriations Committee to ensure that the CPB Office of Field Operations receives adequate funding as a down payment to address the current shortfall.

I appreciate your consideration of this letter, and I look forward to working with you on these and other key issues within our committees' jurisdictions.

Sincerely,



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

Chairman John Boozman  
Ranking Member Jon Tester  
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cc: Ron Johnson  
Chairman

Thad Cochran  
Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee

Patrick Leahy  
Vice Chairman  
Senate Appropriations Committee