



**One Hundred Fourteenth Congress**  
**U.S. House of Representatives**  
**Committee on Homeland Security**  
**Washington, DC 20515**  
March 26, 2015

Honorable John Carter  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
B307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard  
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Homeland Security  
House Appropriations Committee  
B307 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Carter and Ranking Member Roybal-Allard:

As your subcommittee prepares to consider the Fiscal Year 2016 Appropriations Bill for the Department of Homeland Security, I urge your support for funding for proven border security technologies which will help gain situational awareness along our borders. Recently, the Homeland Security Committee passed H.R. 399, the Border Security First Act, which outlined a sector-by-sector technology laydown that we believe will help the Department achieve operational control and situational awareness of the border.

The record number of Border Patrol agents stationed along the Southwest border alone will never be able to bring about complete situational awareness. Sophisticated surveillance technology, in concert with previous investments made in manpower and infrastructure, will give agents and officers a fuller picture on the giving DHS the ability to deter, or interdict illicit cross-border activity.

The rugged terrain across the U.S.-Mexico border requires a mix of technologies specifically tailored to the terrain to achieve this goal. No one technological solution is a panacea to secure the border, but the combination of proven technologies, including those used in theater in Iraq and Afghanistan, will significantly enhance our nation's border security efforts.

Given the continual improvements in available technologies, and adversaries' ability to transit the border, I encourage the subcommittee to continue to look at mobile, and agent-portable technologies, where they make the most sense, and continue to fund the long-delayed deployment of certain fixed capabilities in high-traffic areas of the border.

H.R. 399, outlined a comprehensive roadmap that would rapidly enhance our ability to detect and apprehend unlawful border crossers and called for the timely deployment of Tower-Based Surveillance Technology, known as the Integrated Fixed Towers (IFT), which is currently under construction in Nogales, AZ Area of Responsibility (AOR).

I encourage your subcommittee to fully fund additional IFT AORs, consistent with the sector-by-sector technology laydown outlined in Section 3, as well as funding for the following additional technologies:

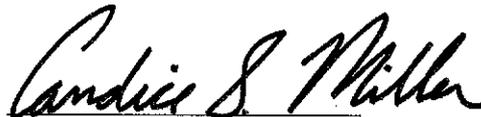
- Mobile Surveillance Capability
- Remote Video Surveillance Systems
- Thermal Imaging Devices
- Advanced Unattended Ground Sensors
- Aerostats
- Tunnel Detection Capabilities

I encourage your subcommittee to fully fund proven border technologies in the Border Security Fencing, Infrastructure, and Technology Account (BSFIT) during your upcoming Fiscal Year 2016 appropriations markup to enhance situational awareness and operational control along the border.

Sincerely,



MICHAEL T. MCCAUL  
Chairman  
Homeland Security Committee



CANDICE S. MILLER  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security



MARTHA MCSALLY  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Emergency Preparedness,  
Response, and Communications