

MARTHA MCSALLY  
2<sup>ND</sup> DISTRICT, ARIZONA

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY  
CHAIRMAN  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS,  
RESPONSE, AND COMMUNICATIONS

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES



UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

April 16, 2015

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The Honorable R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Commissioner Kerlikowske:

In July 2014, Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) agents discovered roughly sixty feet of rebar-reinforced fencing east of Nogales, Arizona, that had been damaged due to heavy flooding. I fully understand that damages to tactical infrastructure along the southern border occur frequently and that routine as well as rapid maintenance is commonplace. In regards to fencing, maintenance and repairs must be carried out in a manner that preserves the integrity of the barriers in order to protect our national security and deter the trafficking of drugs, money, people, and weapons through the border and into our communities. Additionally, as public servants, we must remain good stewards of the American people's taxpayer dollars.

Unfortunately, reports surrounding the cleanup and repair of the fencing outside of Nogales indicate that it took approximately five months and cost \$730,000 to complete the repairs. Given the limited availability of funding and the need for new, more effective technologies along our southern border, I find the cost of the repairs to be of great concern. Please respond to the following questions by May 14, 2015:

- What process was used to award the repair contract?
- Where there any alternative options considered?
- Why was the repair so costly?
- What prevention methods to minimize damage were in place and were they executed properly?
- Why did it take until December to complete the repair project?
- What security measures were in place to ensure that no illegal crossings were made through this vulnerability?

Thank you for your consideration of this request and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha McSally".

Martha McSally  
Member of Congress