

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER

TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
COMMITTEE

AVIATION

HIGHWAY AND TRANSIT

WATER RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, PUBLIC BUILDINGS,
AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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March 29, 2011

The Honorable Harold Rogers
Chairman
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
H-307, US Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Norm Dicks
Ranking Member
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Appropriations
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Rogers and Ranking Member Dicks:

I write to express my concerns about the impact of the recently enacted continuing resolution (P.L. 112-6) on the General Services Administration (GSA) schedule for completion of construction projects at California's land ports-of-entry. I urge the House Appropriations Committee to fully fund the GSA request for the Calexico West Land Port of Entry (LPOE) reconfiguration project.

As you know, P.L. 112-6 provided no funds for GSA construction project in FY2011. I am deeply concerned that FY2011 funds, requested by GSA, for the Calexico West LPOE have been eliminated. I am also concerned that the construction schedules for the new Calexico West, San Ysidro, and Otay Mesa land ports-of-entry will be pushed back.

The Calexico West LPOE is a pedestrian and vehicle inspection facility that was constructed in 1974. With a daily average of 16,000 passenger vehicles and 20,000 pedestrians entering the United States, the undersized Calexico West LPOE is now causing lengthy vehicle and pedestrian delays to cross the border. The average wait time is about one hour during most days and often reaches two hours or longer on peak travel days.

A recent study found that these wait times create an economic hardship on both sides of the border, resulting in a loss of \$1.6 billion annually. In addition, the traffic congestion often results in exceeding permissible levels of PM-10 and other pollutants.

The Honorable Harold Rogers

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The GSA has completed environmental clearance for the reconfiguration and expansion of the existing Calexico West LPOE. The project, which will be constructed in two phases, includes new pedestrian processing and privately owned vehicle inspection facilities, a new head house, and new administrative offices. In addition, a total of 240 surface parking stalls will be provided.

To date, Congress has appropriated \$14.35 million for site acquisition and project design. An additional \$84 million has been authorized for the project in FY2011.

Again, I urge the House Appropriations Committee to fund this worthwhile investment in our border infrastructure. It is essential that the Calexico West LPOE reconfiguration project be completed in a timely manner. An expanded port will advance national security, boost economic development, and vastly improve air quality in the region.

Thank you for your attention to my request.

Sincerely,



BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

BF/sw
2571461

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51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

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The Honorable Norman D. Dicks

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