

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Pete R. Flores  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs & Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner Flores,

We are writing to express our strong support for the expedited acquisition and deployment of modern technologies to enhance the security of the Northern and Southwestern borders of the United States. As you are aware, the challenges we face at our borders are complex and evolving. That is why we urge you to explore the increased use of innovative solutions that can effectively address these issues rapidly while optimizing resource allocation.

Our nation faces a range of threats. As you well know, the flow of fentanyl and other drugs across the Southwestern border continues at alarming levels and continues to poison and kill Americans. Human trafficking and unauthorized migration continue to threaten the security of our borders. It is crucial that all U.S. borders are adequately defended. The U.S. and Canada share the world's longest demilitarized border, and given the current deployment of CBP personnel and assets to the Southwestern border, the security of our northern border could be especially improved through the appropriate use of technological platforms.

There are a variety of technological platforms and products that CBP can increase the employment of to give the Agents and Officers of CBP a more comprehensive level of situational awareness to better secure our borders, including anti-tunneling capabilities, new software and artificial intelligence. Additionally, to better detect threats, we encourage CBP to increase its utilization of unmanned aircraft as well as radar and sensors technologies and autonomous platforms like aerostats. We understand that the integration of new technologies into existing frameworks can be a complex process, and that these technologies function best when supplemented by key infrastructure like road access, power grids, and secured connections to CBP's operation network. However, we urge you to prioritize the acquisition and fielding of modern systems. The safety and security of our nation depend on our ability to adapt to emerging threats and to utilize the best tools available to the CBP team.

We appreciate your commitment to securing our borders and your efforts to explore innovative solutions. We stand ready to support you in this endeavor and look forward to your prompt action in expediting the deployment of these critical technologies. Thank you for your attention to this important matter and we look forward to your response soonest.

Sincerely,



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Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



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John Hoeven  
United States Senator