



One Hundred Thirteenth Congress  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Committee on Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20515

April 5, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20538

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

Recent reports<sup>1</sup> indicate that the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is apprehending less than half of illegal border crossers in certain sectors and that aerial technology has revealed huge gaps in our border security efforts. These revelations are in stark contrast to the Administration's declaration that the border is more secure than ever<sup>2</sup> due to greater resources having been deployed to the region, and that lower rates of apprehensions signify fewer individuals are crossing. Therefore, we are writing to request the data behind the Administration's assertion.

Since the creation of the DHS, Congress has provided significant funding for increases in the number of Border Patrol agents, the building of nearly 700 miles of fencing and the deployment of advanced technologies to increase the nation's ability to monitor the border. However, we do not know if additional resources have produced better results.

In the short duration of the 113th Congress, the Homeland Security Committee's oversight has revealed that while the Administration touts its success, it has been unable to answer the fundamental question: How effective are we at keeping illegal immigrants, drug smugglers and potential terrorists out of our country given this enormous investment?

A recent Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security hearing revealed that DHS still has not created a measure for Congress to be able to verify pronouncements of unprecedented border security. As Congress considers reforms to our immigration laws, we request you provide the evidence to back up your assessment that the border is more secure than ever.

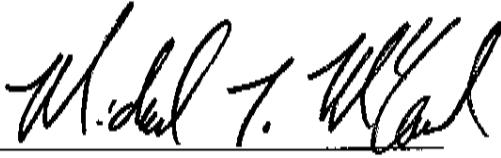
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<sup>1</sup> Brian, Bennett, Radar shows U.S. border security gaps, LA Times (April 4, 2013), *available at* <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/nation/la-na-border-radar-20130404.0.2107595.story>

<sup>2</sup> Associated Press (February 13, 2013), *available at* [http://azstarnet.com/news/national/govt-and-politics/napolitano-u-s--mexico-border-more-secure-than-ever/article\\_46088b1c-7614-11e2-97d8-0019bb2963f4.html](http://azstarnet.com/news/national/govt-and-politics/napolitano-u-s--mexico-border-more-secure-than-ever/article_46088b1c-7614-11e2-97d8-0019bb2963f4.html)

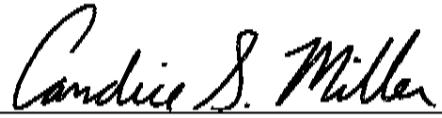
We appreciate your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Michael T. McCaul in black ink, written in a cursive style.

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MICHAEL T. McCAUL  
Chairman

Handwritten signature of Candice S. Miller in black ink, written in a cursive style.

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CANDICE S. MILLER  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Border and Maritime Security