



September 25, 2017

The Honorable Michael McCaul  
Chairman  
U.S. House Homeland Security Committee  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Martha McSally  
Chairwoman  
U.S. House Homeland Security Subcommittee  
on Border and Maritime Security  
Washington, D.C. 20150

Dear Chairman McCaul and Chairwoman McSally:

The Security Industry Association (SIA) would like to take this opportunity to express our support for H.R. 3548, the Border Security for America Act of 2017. SIA is a non-profit international trade association representing more than 750 global security and life safety solutions providers. Many of our members develop, manufacture, and integrate equipment that is vital to carrying out a variety of border security missions both at and between ports of entry.

Security technology can play a key role in providing persistent border surveillance and promoting rapid response to unauthorized intrusions, especially in areas that are otherwise difficult for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agency to monitor and protect. H.R. 3548 supports a multi-layered approach that incorporates additional physical barriers, robust surveillance solutions, and competent personnel tasked with achieving operational control and situational awareness along our northern and southern borders. SIA is supportive of the identification of key technologies that will help deter unlawful entry into the United States in each of the border regions, which vary greatly in terms of geography, population density, and other factors.

Implementation of H.R. 3548 could result in significant expansion of U.S. border protections by physical barriers as appropriate in high risk areas as part of this border security infrastructure. Physical barriers are not effective deterrents without the ability of U.S. border patrol agents to detect breaches and breach attempts. Therefore, the use of modern integrated surveillance technology and analytics used in perimeter security will be just as essential to success as a barrier's structural design. Another critical component will be the use of counter-drone technology to mitigate against the threat posed by the use of drones by drug cartels and other criminals to circumvent border barriers – a growing issue well publicized in several recent examples. We urge the committee to ensure that CBP gives proper design, planning, and resource allocation consideration for these essential elements.

H.R. 3548 also recognizes the urgent need for of improving security at CBP facilities. We support the bill's authorization of additional resources to improve infrastructure at CBP Forward Operating Bases, including perimeter security protections, as well as the additional \$33 million authorized in Fiscal Year 2018 to fully implement the Border Security Deployment Program, which will help modernize surveillance and intrusion detection systems at land ports of entry along the southern and northern borders.

We strongly support Section 205, which mandates the phased deployment of biometric entry/exit data systems for international visitors, which is long overdue since its initial authorization in 2004. SIA members have been engaged with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and CBP in efforts to assess and deploy these systems so far on a pilot basis and will continue to be a resource as implementation continues.

Thank you for your hard work in drafting this legislation. SIA and its members look forward to working with you and the Committee in support H.R. 3548, and other measures that help secure the homeland. Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Don Erickson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Don Erickson  
Chief Executive Officer  
Security Industry Association