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August 10, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

Thank you for all the Department of Homeland Security has done to keep our fellow citizens safe amidst extraordinary circumstances. I write to call attention to the opioid epidemic that continues plaguing our nation, and the actions we must take to ensure we are appropriately addressing this crisis. Fentanyl and other synthetic opioids resulted in over 50,000 deaths in 2019 alone, prompting the U.S. Custom and Border Protection (CBP) to develop a comprehensive strategy to combat opioids and develop innovative ways to gain control of this dire situation.

Within that 2019 strategy, CBP recommended improved detection technologies at the southern border that allows agents to better screen vehicles crossing from Mexico into the U.S., since a manual inspection of every vehicle is unrealistic. CBP requested, and Congress appropriated, \$705 million over 3 years to invest in Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology, providing the capability to scan every vehicle and detect trace amounts of illicit drugs. It is imperative this transformative technology is fielded as soon as possible to reduce the number of opioids on American streets. To ensure this technology has been properly implemented, I am request a response to the following questions:

1. Can you provide a complete list of the ports of entry in which NII technology has been fully implemented?
2. How much funding remains within DHS for the implementation of NII technology?
3. When do you expect CBP to have the capability to execute 100% NII screening at ports of entry across the southern border?

I appreciate your attention to this request and look forward to your prompt response. For any questions or concerns, please contact Katie Crane in my office at 202-225-9896 or [Katie.Crane@mail.house.gov](mailto:Katie.Crane@mail.house.gov).

In God We Trust,

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

Roger Williams  
Member of Congress