

FEB 23 2005

Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4328

Dear Representative Cuellar:

Thank you for your letter of regarding Fiscal Year 2004 grant awards to the 28th Congressional District of Texas.

The Department of Homeland Security's Office of State and Local Government Coordination and Preparedness (SLGCP) is the Federal Government's lead agency responsible for preparing the nation against terrorism by assisting states, local and tribal jurisdictions, and regional authorities to reduce vulnerabilities against, prevent, respond to, and recover from terrorist acts. As part of this mission, SLGCP provides support to the nation's emergency prevention and preparedness community through a number of different grant programs, training and exercise support, and technical assistance.

In Fiscal Year 2004, a primary source of homeland security funds available to states and localities was through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) which combined three separate programs: the State Homeland Security Grant Program, the Law Enforcement Terrorism Prevention Program, and the Citizen Corps Program. HSGP funds were awarded directly to each state's State Administering Agency (SAA) which is designated by each state's governor.

In Fiscal Year 2004, funds under HSGP were distributed to each of the states based on a formula contained within Section 1014 of the USA PATRIOT Act (Public Law 107-256) which used a base amount of .75 percent of the total allocation for the states (including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico) and .25 percent of the total allocation for the U.S. territories, including American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. The balance of the funds was distributed on a population-share basis that is based on estimates from the U.S. Bureau of the Census.

In Fiscal Year 2004, SLGCP awarded the state of Texas \$115,110,000 under HSGP. The Department also provided funds to 50 UASI sites across the country. San Antonio was selected as a UASI site and was allocated \$6,263,976. Under these programs, funds can be used for a variety of purposes such as the training support and the development of training programs, exercise support and prevention, preparedness, and response planning.

The governor of each state has designated a State Administration Agency (SAA) that administers and disburses SLGCP funds to localities. These funds are awarded directly to the SAA which distributes funds based on a state-generated risk assessments and preparedness strategies. For information about Fiscal Year 2004 grant awards to the 28th Congressional District of Texas, I

recommend that you contact the SAA for the state of Texas, Dr. G. Kemble Bennett. He can be contacted via mail at 301 Wisenbeaker Engineering Research Center, Texas A&M University, 3126 TAMU, College Station, Texas 77843 or via telephone at (b) (6)

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (b) (6)

Sincerely,



Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-4328

January 24, 2005

Ms. Pamela Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Ms. Turner:

As representative of the 28th Congressional District of Texas, I am writing today regarding the amount of funding that was distributed in the 28th district in 2004. Specifically, I would like to know which counties in my district received funding in 2004, the amount, grantee, purpose, whether it was in the form of a grant or a loan, were matching funds required, and date awarded.

Please keep in mind that due to redistricting in 2004 the counties in the 28th Congressional District have changed. The new counties in my district are as follows:

- | | |
|--------------|-------------|
| 1. Atascosa | 7. La Salle |
| 2. Bexar | 8. McMullen |
| 3. Comal | 9. Webb |
| 4. Frio | 10. Wilson |
| 5. Guadalupe | 11. Zapata |
| 6. Hays | |

I appreciate your assistance in this matter. If you have any questions please feel free to contact (b) (6) at (b) (6)

Sincerely,



Henry Cuellar
U.S. Congressman
28th District of Texas

HRC:sg

SEP 08 2005

Office of Legislative Affairs

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528



**Homeland
Security**

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cuellar:

On behalf of President Bush, thank you for your letter regarding family members kidnapped from the Laredo, Texas, area.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) shares these concerns regarding national security and the recent border violence that they have reported and is dedicated to making the safety of the nation's borders the top priority in the fight against terrorism and terrorist acts of any kind. CBP will continue to assist in every way possible to reduce crime in border communities by providing the right combination of personnel, technology, and border infrastructure. Also, CBP is working closely with the Government of Mexico in providing liaison with key personnel to address border violence, curb migrant deaths and injuries, and assist in investigations of border crimes by our two countries. The Department of Homeland Security and the representatives of the Government of Mexico continue to pursue diplomatic efforts to address key border safety issues.

I appreciate your interest in the Department of Homeland Security, and I look forward to working with you on future homeland security issues. If I may be of further assistance, please contact the Office of Legislative Affairs at (b) (6)

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pam Turner".

Pamela J. Turner
Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs

August 10, 2005

Dear Representative Cuellar:

Due to mail screening procedures, we have only recently received your July 19, 2005, letter addressed to President Bush regarding the United States' shared border with Mexico.

My staff is reviewing your correspondence for appropriate action, and we thank you for your patience. Please be assured your letter is receiving our close and careful attention.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our Legislative Correspondence Office at (b) (6)

Sincerely,



Candida P. Wolff
Assistant to the President
for Legislative Affairs

The Honorable Henry Cuellar
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Bcc for Appropriate Action: DHS
For Information: DOJ

AUG 12 2005

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OVERSIGHT, DAIRY, NUTRITION
AND FORESTRY



HENRY CUELLAR
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
28TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

July 19, 2005

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George W. Bush
President of the United States of America
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

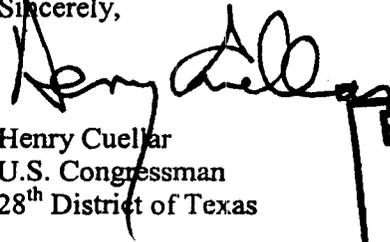
Dear President Bush:

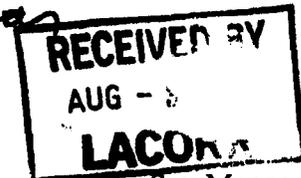
As you know, the recent violence along our shared border with Mexico has become an issue of national concern. I am grateful for the work you have done to improve relations with Vicente Fox and the Mexican government, and I am confident that we will be able to work together to restore order to the border region.

As we work towards a solution, it is important that we not forget the human cost of the unrest in the border region. Attached to this letter, please find several letters from the families of some of the Americans who have been kidnapped from the Laredo area. These letters are a terrible reminder of the urgency of our task. The words of the families of the missing underline how much is at stake, in Laredo and in cities throughout the border region. It is my hope that the continued efforts of all the parties involved – Congress, the law enforcement community, the Mexican government, and yourself – will finally bring stability to the border and relief to these families and the many others like them.

Thank you for taking the time to read these letters. I know that as a fellow Texan, you understand the great promise of the border region, and the depth of the tragedy that is currently unfolding. I am deeply grateful for your help and leadership on this issue, and I look forward to working with you to bring some measure of peace to the many families who are counting on our efforts.

Sincerely,


Henry Cuellar
U.S. Congressman
28th District of Texas



HRC:jm

LAREDO:

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LAREDO, TX 78040
PHONE: (956) 725-0639
FAX: (956) 725-2647

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FAX: (210) 277-6671

SAN MARCOS:

111 EAST SAN ANTONIO, SUITE 205
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HENRY CUELLAR
CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
28TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

March 30, 2006

The Honorable Michael Chertoff
Secretary, Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

As a follow up to your recent visit to my hometown of Laredo, Texas, I write to formally request a meeting with you to discuss several items of concern to the community of Laredo. My colleagues and I in Congress share concerns about the state of U.S.-Mexico border security and feel that through sharing our knowledge of the region and the threats that exist there, we can do much to improve the state of security in Laredo and thereby, the nation.

There are three primary areas of concern I wish to pursue with you in person. Foremost among these issues is that Laredo has not been designated an eligible area under the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). The Fiscal Year 2006 UASI risk formula considered three primary variables: consequence; vulnerability; and threat. Given the incidents of violence and the potential threat of terrorism to any border town, not withstanding the busiest land port in the country the threat to Laredo is real. Port security is important and vital in our continued war on terror and maintaining national security; however, land ports should not be treated differently from seaports. I am anxious to discuss with you personally the value to Laredo of a UASI designation.

The second area of concern is the Laredo Riverbend Road and Trail Project. This project impacts national security through enhancing visibility, mobility and access in secluded areas fronting the Rio Grande River within the corporate limits of the City of Laredo. I understand to date that the river obstructions have been removed; however the remainder of the project has not been completed. The project includes the eradication of Carrizo Cane growing along the Rio Grande river bed. The cane obstructs visibility along the river, making it dangerous to patrol. Access to the area is further limited due to

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the decay or lack of roads and ATV/Bike trails and river crossings. A safer working environment for the border patrol agents will improve their ability to gain, maintain, and extend control of the U.S./Mexico Border.

Finally, the Secure Border Initiative (SBI) that will enable DHS to achieve operational control of both the northern and southern border within five years is very important to the future of the Laredo community and economic trade. I look forward to gaining a better understanding of the plans and implementation of this project.

Ensuring national security and promoting economic trade is critical to our nation's future. The Port of Laredo is the fourth busiest port overall in the United States and the nation's busiest land port with \$131 billion dollars worth of goods and merchandise processed in 2004 alone. The Transportation Bureau of Statistics report for Laredo for 2004 reveal crossings of 1.4 million commercial trucks, 3400 trains with 317,000 containers, 38,000 buses, 4.5 million pedestrians and 6.7 million private vehicles. Laredo has a population of 215,000 and its neighboring city of Nuevo Laredo, Mexico has a population estimated at 500,000. These numbers highlight the challenges Laredo faces being a lower-population urban area with big-city responsibilities. It is my assertion that the close ties and constant travel between the two cities on a daily basis impacts both the populations of Laredo and Nuevo Laredo.

Having visited Laredo and toured the border, I know you share my concerns for the seriousness of the issues facing this region. I look forward to hearing from you regarding this request. Please contact (b) (6) at (b) (6) to arrange a mutually convenient time.

Sincerely,


Henry Cuellar, Ph.D.
U.S. Congressman
Texas, District 28

HC:yj