

BOB FILNER
51ST DISTRICT, CALIFORNIA

2428 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
TEL: (202) 225-8045
FAX: (202) 225-9073

333 F STREET, SUITE A
CHULA VISTA, CALIFORNIA 91910
TEL: (619) 422-5963
FAX: (619) 422-7290

1101 AIRPORT ROAD, SUITE D
IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA 92251
TEL: (760) 355-8800
FAX: (760) 355-8802



CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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

Dear Secretary Chertoff:

In a recent letter to my office regarding the Calexico Ports of Entry (POE) along the California-Mexico border, you mentioned several provisions to decrease wait times. While these provisions are beneficial, they do not go far enough to eliminate the extensive wait times experienced everyday by my constituents. Long delays in crossing the international border have had a severe impact on local businesses and quality of life for the residents of Calexico

While your letter stated that Customs and Border Patrol (CBP) would work to ensure that all privately owned vehicles and pedestrian lanes are operational when wait times reach or exceed 60 minutes at the Calexico West POE, this is not acceptable. The CBP should aggressively strive for a goal of 15 minute wait times in order to ensure that our homeland security is working efficiently and effectively.

Just as important to having a goal of a 15 minute wait time at the Calexico West POE, I urge you to move the Calexico East POE to a 24 hour operation. By increasing the operational hours of the Calexico East POE, it will decrease wait times for everyone and improve our homeland security.

I urge you to implement these plans as soon as possible to alleviate chronic wait times at the border. Please inform my office when these plans will be implemented in the near future. I look forward to a timely response.

Sincerely,

BOB FILNER
Member of Congress

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