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**Congress of the United States**  
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September 6, 2022

Chris Magnus  
Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Magnus,

I write to you with urgent concern regarding U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) mismanagement of its personnel compensation budget and the operational impacts of the resulting shortfall for the remainder of Fiscal Year 2022. As you know, CBP plays a significant role in the day to day lives of the Northern Border communities that I represent and disruptions in cross-border travel are felt throughout our region.

CBP's Buffalo Field Office recently informed stakeholders in my district that CBP's Office of Field Operations expects potential increases in border wait times due to operational adjustments to close out the fiscal year, especially at the busiest Port of Entry locations. The communication from the CBP's Buffalo Field Office indicated that factors, including the resumption of international travel and trade, COVID-related staffing shortages, and CBP's focus on national security and enforcement, led to the limited budget that will result in the shifting of resources through September 30, 2022. Constituents I represent have already contacted me with concerns regarding excessive wait times as a result of lower levels of CBP manpower at a number of Ports of Entry across the Northern Border.

I remind you that Congress appropriated \$650 million for Fiscal Year 2022 to offset any reduction in fee revenue as cross-border travel recovers to its pre-pandemic level, making it inexcusable that CBP failed to appropriately budget these taxpayer resources and must now compensate through reductions in operational capacity. As we continue on the path towards restoring normal travel between the U.S. and Canada, increasing barriers to cross-border travel is unacceptable, especially as a result of negligence in budgetary planning.

To this end, I request responses to the following questions no later than September 16, 2022:

1. What is the current discrepancy between the remaining CBP budget for Fiscal Year 2022 and the funding needed to maintain operations at the levels provided through the first three quarters of the fiscal year, and why did this shortfall occur?

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2. How is CBP shifting resources due to the limited remaining budget and what operational impacts does CBP anticipate this will have through the end of the fiscal year?
3. How has CBP communicated the funding shortfall and resulting operational impacts to CBP personnel and the impacted communities?
4. How does CBP plan to mitigate the operational impacts, including increased wait times at Ports of Entry along the U.S. – Canada Border, and ensure the agency can continue executing its essential functions?
5. What steps will CBP take to ensure this budgetary mismanagement does not reoccur in the future?

I look forward to your timely response on this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Elise M. Stefanik". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

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Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress