

Congressman Cuellar's FY19 Homeland Security Appropriations Language

1. *As the next step in efforts to expand detection capabilities, CBP is planning to assess and deploy multi-lane NII platforms that can safely automate the inspection process in the primary inspection lanes at land POEs.*

To accelerate these efforts, the recommendation included \$223,000,000 above the request, to include \$182,000,000 for the procurement of technology to initiate a five-year plan to screen 100 percent of all vehicles that cross the southwest border and \$41,000,000 to hire 140 canine teams and seven additional CBP officers to assist in screening. The funding level supports the continued operational assessment and requirements development process for this effort. The combination of NII equipment, canine teams, and well-trained, highly skilled officers will allow CBP to combat the entry of illicit goods, narcotics, and humans being smuggled into the country, and end the exploitation of our southwest land POEs.

CBP is directed to update the multi-year strategic plan directed in the explanatory statement accompanying Public Law 115-141, not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, to account for this additional funding. CBP is also directed to brief the Committee on the results of the ongoing pilots upon their completion. This briefing shall include an assessment of each platform's ability to increase vehicle inspection throughput at the ports without impacting primary operations for commercial and privately owned vehicles. CBP is further directed to update the Committee on the obligation of funds for NII acquisition as a part of the required quarterly obligation plans directed in title I of this report. The Committee expects any procurement of technology to be competitively awarded.

With the exception of marijuana, over 80 percent of all drugs seized on the southwest border are interdicted at the ports of entry (POEs), yet only a small number of vehicles are scanned for contraband with non-intrusive inspection (NII) equipment. As the next step in efforts to expand detection capabilities, CBP is planning to assess and deploy multi-lane NII platforms that can safely automate the inspection process in the primary inspection lanes at land POEs.