



State of New Mexico  
House of Representatives

STATE CAPITOL  
Santa Fe

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March 21, 2024

**COMMITTEES:**

Health & Human Services  
Transportation, Public Works & Capital Improvements  
Enrolling & Engrossing - B

The Honorable Gabe Vasquez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1517 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Vasquez:

I am writing to request your assistance in helping increase staff at the Columbus, New Mexico border crossing to allow three additional hours of operation each day for the processing of commercial traffic. It is my understanding that although the Columbus border crossing is open 24 hours per day, commercial traffic can only be processed from 8 am – 5 pm every day. With additional staff resources, I believe the requested three additional hours per day would provide an immediate improvement to the commercial traffic bottlenecks that occur at this border crossing after 5 pm, as well as create more economic benefits for the entire area.

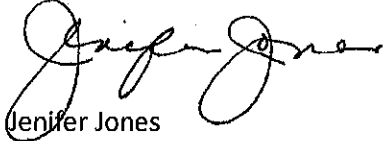
As you are aware, the economic activity driven by our ports of entry along the southern border produces significant benefits for communities on both sides of the border. Unfortunately, the existing hours of operation are preventing the maximum benefit the Columbus border crossing can potentially provide and is limiting the flow of needed trade and commerce between the United States and Mexico. It is my further understanding the reason U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has not been able to increase the hours of operation for commercial traffic to 8:00 p.m. is because they are limited in staff. Simply stated, the CBP needs an additional appropriation to hire the staff needed to extend the hours.

The Columbus port of entry has undergone significant modernization and upgrades over the past few years. This welcomed investment at the border crossing has helped expand not only economic development in southern New Mexico, but has produced needed jobs throughout the region and helped streamlined the operation of the international commerce marketplace. Increasing the hours of operation will further enhance these existing economic benefits and your assistance in extending the hours of operation for commercial traffic would play an important part in creating more economic benefits in the future.

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Thank you for your consideration of my request. If I can provide any assistance in this matter, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jennifer Jones". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Jennifer Jones  
State Representative District 32