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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

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February 1, 2024

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear President Biden,

I write today to request that you swiftly nominate a qualified candidate to be the Commissioner of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP).

CBP has been without a Senate-confirmed leader since November 12, 2022.¹ For more than a year, the Senate has not received a nomination for the position tasked with overseeing CBP's more than 60,000 staff and advancing critical trade, travel and national security objectives.

The dire situation at our southern border requires strong, steady leadership. Last month saw a record 302,034 migrant encounters.² Critical ports of entry—including the Lukeville POE in Arizona—were closed for much of December as CBP shifted resources to respond to the influx of migrants³, disrupting the cross-border economy during the busy holiday season. And in fiscal year 2023, CBP seized nearly twice as much illicit fentanyl as it did the previous year.⁴

I ask that you use every tool at your disposal to ensure that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection has the leadership and resources to meet this moment. I'm working across the aisle in Congress to pass an emergency supplemental that matches your request for more resources for CBP—including funding for 1,300 additional border patrol agents, 1,000 additional officers focused on counter-fentanyl efforts and cutting-edge technology. But in the meantime, you have the power to ensure the CBP has a leader.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Greg Stanton".

Greg Stanton
Member of Congress

¹ <https://www.npr.org/2022/11/12/1136321045/customs-and-border-protection-chris-magnus-resigns-migrants>

² <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/national-media-release/cbp-releases-december-2023-monthly-update>

³ <https://www.azcentral.com/story/news/politics/border-issues/2024/01/02/lukeville-border-port-of-entry-is-reopening/72089789007/>

⁴ <https://abcnews.go.com/Politics/border-officials-seizing-lot-fentanyl-complicated-problem-solve/story?id=105255151>