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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-3013**

November 19, 2020

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Dr. Alejandro Gertz Manero  
Fiscal General de la República  
Av. Insurgentes 20 de la Glorieta de Insurgentes, Col. Roma Norte, Cuauhtémoc C.P. 06700  
Ciudad de México

Dear Fiscal General Gertz,

As consistent supporters of Mexico's efforts to strengthen the rule of law and combat corruption, we are writing to express our strong interest in seeing that justice prevails in the drug trafficking case against General Salvador Cienfuegos Zepeda.

As you know, General Cienfuegos was arrested on October 15, 2020 in Los Angeles, California. In public statements, the U.S. Department of Justice said it had uncovered links between General Cienfuegos and the H-2 cartel, in particular dating back to the period between December 2015 and February 2017 while he was serving as Defense Minister in the administration of President Enrique Peña Nieto. According to U.S. court documents, during that time, General Cienfuegos allegedly facilitated the trafficking of "thousands of kilograms of cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine and marijuana into the United States" in exchange for bribes. Prosecutors allege that General Cienfuegos accepted bribes to protect the cartel and its leaders and even informed them of upcoming military actions against them.

The United States Congress has a longstanding, bipartisan interest in supporting Mexico's efforts to strengthen its democratic institutions, combat corruption, improve public security, and protect human rights. Since 2008, this support has included over \$3 billion in direct assistance. While we believe this assistance has helped enable progress in stemming the flow of drugs and money across our border, professionalizing the police, helping strengthen Mexico's justice sector, and increasing protections for human rights, we also recognize that serious challenges remain. Violence rates in Mexico have reached historically high levels in the last two years, most crimes in Mexico are still not denounced or investigated, and it is estimated that corruption costs Mexico five percent of its annual Gross Domestic Product.

Our countries have a great deal of work to do to advance this strategic investment in our shared security. We also recognize that we have more work to do on our side of the border to address the U.S. demand for illicit drugs and to adopt measures to combat illicit arms trafficking into

Mexico. We know that the interests of the United States and Mexico are inextricably linked and that developments in Mexico have direct impacts for security on both sides of the border.

In remarks following General Cienfuegos' arrest, President Andrés Manuel López Obrador asserted that "the principal problem in Mexico is corruption." He further affirmed that under his administration, the Mexican government "will not cover for anyone."

Your office now has a unique opportunity to demonstrate the whole-of-government commitment behind President Lopez Obrador's comments by ensuring that the case against Salvador Cienfuegos is thoroughly investigated and pursued to its conclusion, without interference. If General Cienfuegos is deemed guilty by the Mexican justice system of any crimes, including the serious allegations that have been presented against him by the U.S. Department of Justice, he should be fully prosecuted under Mexican law. We further ask that you work with relevant law enforcement institutions to ensure his safety throughout the criminal proceedings.

We stand with the Mexican people who expect their government institutions to deliver justice. And we remain committed to working with the Mexican government to strengthen U.S.-Mexico cooperation and to ensure sustained progress in the fight against corruption and impunity.

Sincerely,



Albio Sires  
Chairman  
Western Hemisphere Subcommittee



Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress