

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4315

July 18, 2023

The Honorable Troy A. Miller  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Acting Commissioner Miller:

I write to strongly urge U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to address the increased levels of traffic and long border wait times at our land ports of entry in Brownsville, Texas, and to implement effective measures to facilitate an orderly flow of traffic promptly.

As you know, long wait times have an immediate economic impact on local communities, cause delays in our supply chains, and affect thousands of cross-border workers and students who live in Mexico and work and study in the Rio Grande Valley. The efficient flow of cross-border travel and international trade is critical to the state of Texas and our nation's economic stability.

International bridges located in the 34<sup>th</sup> Congressional District of Texas unite several bordering communities in the U.S. and Mexico, including the Matamoros-Brownsville Metropolitan Area, which accounts for a population of 1,136,995 - making it the 4<sup>th</sup> largest metropolitan area on the U.S.-Mexico Border. Vehicle passengers and pedestrians in Brownsville use international bridges to travel on a daily basis. Yet, reports indicate only one to two lanes are open in the General and Ready lanes at the Gateway International Bridge, causing hours of traffic delays. According to Cameron County, eighty percent of pedestrian traffic in Brownsville is facilitated by the Gateway Bridge, making any delays severely impactful to trade and travel. Additionally, the Veterans International Bridge at Los Tomates and the Free Trade International Bridge at Los Indios, which account for more than \$10.5 billion in cross-border commerce annually, and the Brownsville & Matamoros International Bridge have reportedly experienced recent wait times of up to six hours with limited lanes open at ports of entry. This is unacceptable and must be addressed promptly.

Not only do these excessive wait times affect trade and travel time, but also the health and well-being of travelers, including children, families, and the elderly, who are unable to use restrooms or stop for water and food. Waiting for hours in record-high temperatures is a significant threat to the health of travelers. Additionally, long wait times in excessive heat have caused multiple vehicles to stall, overheat, or damage tires, which endangers passengers and requires costly repairs.

Long wait times at the U.S.-Mexico Border are detrimental to our economy, which is why I urge you to provide information on any resources necessary to shorten these delays and implement

measures to effectively facilitate the flow of legitimate travel and trade. I stand ready to work with you and CBP to address the long border wait times impacting our community and thank you for your attention this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VG' followed by a stylized surname.

Vicente Gonzalez  
Member of Congress