

Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-0550

April 27, 2021

The Honorable Peter DeFazio  
Chair  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2165 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Sam Graves  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Transportation  
and Infrastructure  
2164 Rayburn House Office Building  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chair DeFazio and Ranking Member Graves:

I am requesting funding for the State Route 11 (SR-11)/Otay Mesa East Port of Entry project in surface transportation reauthorization legislation.

The sponsor for this project is Caltrans District 11 and San Diego Association of Governments and the project is located approximately 17 miles southeast of downtown San Diego, just north of the U.S. border and the Baja California Peninsula of Mexico.

The funding is designated for construction of the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry and ancillary facilities.

The project is an appropriate use of taxpayer dollars and will be the nation's first transformative land port of entry to integrate innovative technologies aimed to reduce border crossing wait times, traffic congestion, and vehicular emissions while enhancing crossborder travel, safety, and trade to increase national resiliency.

The project represents more than a decade of work that has brought together state, federal, regional, and local stakeholders to develop roadway infrastructure, acquire right-of-way, procedurally clear the development efforts, and model near- and long-term passenger and commercial vehicle cross-border traffic to create a border vision that systematically manages the region's ports of entry and their companion transportation facilities. Substantial funding investments of \$565 million have already been made on the U.S. side of the border from federal, state, and local resources to provide much of the connecting infrastructure needed for the new crossing. The Project partners have been coordinating closely with Mexican stakeholders for developing the complementary Mesa de Otay II Port of Entry. In addition, the Otay Mesa East Port of Entry has been highlighted as a key project by the State of California since the new border crossing will implement strategies identified in the National Freight Strategic Plan, 2021 California-Baja California Border Master Plan, California Freight Mobility Plan 2020, and California Sustainable Freight Action Plan.

I certify that neither I nor my immediate family has any financial interest in this project.

Sincerely,



Darrell Issa  
Member of Congress