Congress of the United States Washington, DC 20515

April 25, 2011

The Honorable Secretary Janet Napolitano Department of Homeland Security Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

As Texas Representatives and Members of the House Committee on Homeland Security, we request that you base the two Unmanned Aerial Systems (UAS), ordered as part of 2010 Border Supplemental, in Texas. As you know, Texas holds more than 1,200 miles of the international border and currently has only one UAS based at Corpus Christi Naval Air Station, as opposed to the three based in Arizona. The addition of two UAS vehicles in Texas would provide both federal and state law enforcement the surveillance capabilities they desperately require.

In June 2010, you stated that although "UAV's aren't useful everywhere," their use along the Texas-Mexico border will help create the "right mix of infrastructure, manpower and technology to improve border security." In Texas, UAS's have indeed successfully supplemented our federal and state law enforcement on the ground. The addition of two more systems could further allow CBP to receive precise, real time surveillance, allowing the deployment of fewer agents in a specific area, while retaining the ability to deter intrusions.

We request that you locate one of these systems at a location immediately along the Texas-Mexico border. Texas Rangers and Texas Department of Public Safety have brought to our attention that the absence of UAS based along the border has already hindered law enforcement operations. Both federal and state law enforcement rely on the critical surveillance these systems provide and having a UAS readily available along the border is crucial to their mission.

To adequately support the addition of two UAS's based in Texas, we request that you also increase the number of flight crews, training, and ground operations needed to support the mounting requests for aerial surveillance missions.

We look forward to the delivery of the two UAS's to Texas by end of CY2011. As always, we appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working with you in the future.

Sincerely,

Rep. Michael McCaul (TX-10)

Rep. Henry Cuellar (TX-28)

Rep. Blake Farenthold (TX-27)