

EMBAJADA DE MÉXICO



Washington, DC.
September 8th, 2015

The Honorable Elijah Cummings
United States House of Representatives
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings,

I am writing you regarding the upcoming hearing of the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform titled "U.S. Violence on the Border: Keeping U.S. Personnel Safe".

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the Government of Mexico is fully committed to the security of our shared border region and has been working and collaborating with U.S. agencies in this and many other issues of mutual interest.

In this regard, we acknowledge and appreciate the work that you have been doing to address the constant flow of illegal firearms from the U.S. into Mexico. As you pointed out in your June 2011 report, illegal firearms is one of the elements that fuel violence in Mexico and the U.S. A recent report released by ATF found that 71.9% of traceable weapons recovered in Mexico in Calendar Year 2014 were sourced from the U.S.

Transborder criminal organizations (TCO) are the main beneficiaries of the illegal flow of firearms through our borders. This flow has allowed TCO to obtain firepower that in some cases rivals the capabilities of police forces in Mexico, forcing Mexican law enforcement agencies at all levels to extraordinarily foster their operation protocols in order to be able to confront and neutralize the threat that TCO's represent for the societies of both our countries.

It is clear that more needs to be done to tackle this shared problem. As Mexico has stated for many years, Congress can play a very important role in combating these TCO's and the flow of illegal firearms by enacting proper legislation. The Government of Mexico truly appreciates the efforts that you have been doing in this issue, and recognizes in you an example of commitment and binational collaboration to find a solution to this complex issue. The Embassy of Mexico looks forward to continue working with you in this or any other matter related to both our countries.

I would like to take advantage of this opportunity to convey to you the assurance of my high esteem and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alejandro Estivill
Chargé d'Affaires, *a.i.*