

MATT SALMON
5TH DISTRICT, ARIZONA

2349 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-2635
(202) 226-4386 (FAX)

207 NORTH GILBERT ROAD
SUITE 209
GILBERT, AZ 85234
(480) 699-8239
(480) 699-4730 (FAX)

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0305

www.house.gov/salmon

COMMITTEE ON
FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CHAIRMAN
SUBCOMMITTEE ON
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE

June 25, 2015

The Honorable John Kerry
Secretary of State
2201 C Street, NW
Washington, DC 20520

Dear Mr. Secretary:

I write today to highlight my concern over the recent hijacking in Mexico of a truck containing 11,500 personalized Border Crossing Cards (BCCs) and to request a full accounting of this incident and the investigation.

Media reports, citing State Department statements made on 24 June, 2015, indicate that a truck carrying 11,500 BCCs to the U.S. Consulates in Guadalajara and Monterrey, Mexico was hijacked on 7 June, 2015 in northern Mexico. To date, no arrests or claims of responsibility for the theft have been made.

I value our vibrant, bilateral commercial relationship with Mexico. Economic opportunities abound between the State of Arizona and Mexico that create jobs and prosperity for both countries. However, the troubling levels of insecurity that exists in Mexico places a strain on the U.S.- Mexican commercial relationship, and threatens our own nation's security. Security in Mexico and our trade agenda are mutually inclusive topics. Our potential to achieve a positive trade agenda declines as security in Mexico deteriorates.

This particular incident needs to be addressed and a thorough accounting should be provided to Congress in a timely fashion. I respectfully request an immediate briefing to answer at a minimum the following questions:

- What are the circumstances surrounding this hijacking? Was this truck targeted due to the contents of its cargo?
- Can these BCCs be altered or manipulated in a way that could provide future security threats?
- What has the Department done to mitigate any future threat to sensitive border crossing documentation?
- How does this hijacking pose a threat to our ability to secure our borders?

- Have there been other incidents where U.S. secure documents have disappeared in Mexico?
- Why was the press advised of this theft while Congress received no notification?
- Why did the Department take almost three weeks to make available the scant information that it did?

Providing for security at our borders is one of Congress' most urgent priorities; facilitating trade and legal cross border traffic is another. Addressing this security situation is an urgent matter and if not handled properly will have long term consequences to our relationship with Mexico and security along our border. I look forward to receiving a full briefing on this theft and its consequences as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Matt Salmon
Member of Congress