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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

June 17, 2009

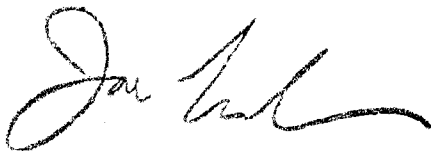
Chief Jack F. Harris
Phoenix Police Department
620 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85003

Dear Chief Harris:

Thank you for your testimony on April 20, 2009, before the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs at our hearing titled "Southern Border Violence: State and Local Perspectives."


Your testimony provided crucial insight into the situation along the Mexican border and how the federal government can work with state and local authorities to combat the drug cartels. The committee learned a great deal from the panel's discussion of the challenges that border communities in Arizona face in addressing the pernicious impact of the drug and human smuggling organizations and in preventing spillover violence from Mexico. In particular, we appreciated your perspective and thoughts on the impact that the epidemic of kidnappings and home invasions has had on Phoenix, and we appreciated your recommendations for ways in which the federal government may be able to stem the tide. We were struck by your testimony concerning the high level of information-sharing between federal, state, and local law enforcement agencies in Phoenix, which we believe to be critical. Your testimony will help the committee move forward in addressing this important issue.

Again, thank you for your testimony, and we look forward to working with you in the future.



Joseph I. Lieberman
Chairman

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
Ranking Member

JIL/SMC:tdt