

# Instead of building fences/walls... MODERNIZE U.S. PORTS OF ENTRY

## Ports of Entry—a major source of economic activity—are badly in need of improvements

**\$4 billion**

Deficit for needed improvements to Ports of Entry, according to U.S. Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Kevin McAleenan<sup>1</sup>

- Update screening and scanning technology
- Expand physical processing capacity
- Hire more inspectors

**4,000**

Number of customs inspectors and other Port of Entry personnel short of what CBP's own workforce analysis suggests it requires<sup>2</sup>

**18%**

Percentage of vehicles coming into the U.S. that CBP is able to inspect<sup>3</sup>

**\$2 billion**

Economic activity through the U.S.-Mexico border Ports of Entry every day<sup>4</sup>

Current facilities cannot handle the traffic flow, causing long wait times and costing the U.S. economy millions of dollars.<sup>5</sup>

## Illicit drugs come almost entirely through Ports of Entry and the mail

**100 out of 1.3 million**

Number of items inspected by CBP out of the total number of inbound international packages the U.S. Postal Service handles every day.<sup>6</sup>

*“The most common method... involves transporting illicit drugs through U.S. ports of entry (POEs) in passenger vehicles with concealed compartments or commingled with legitimate goods on tractor trailers.”*

—U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment<sup>7</sup>

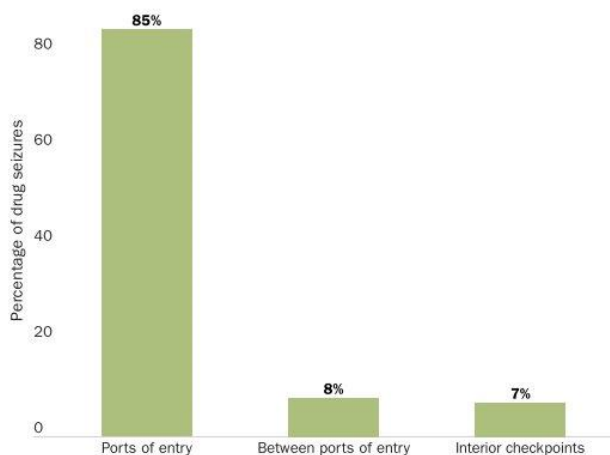
*“Adequately staffing our ports of entry with law enforcement personnel professionally trained to interdict illegal drug shipments is the fastest way to stem the deadly opioid tide into our communities.”*

—Tony Reardon, president of the National Treasury Employees Union, which represents 25,000 CBP officers<sup>9</sup>

*“The big issue right now with drugs coming into the United States is the ports of entry.”*

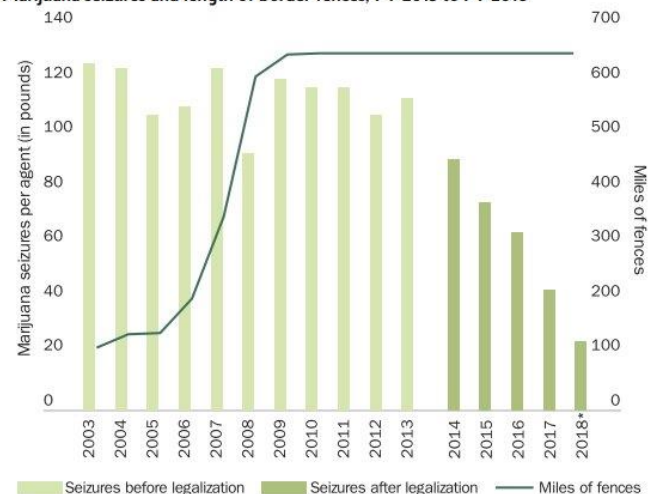
—Former Department of Homeland Security Secretary John F. Kelly<sup>10</sup>

Percentage of total value of non-marijuana drug seizures by location, April to August 2018



Cato Institute<sup>8</sup>

Marijuana seizures and length of border fences, FY 2013 to FY 2018



Cato Institute<sup>11</sup>

*“As a lifelong border resident, I speak with constituents, landowners, and law enforcement professionals regularly, and they agree that a massively expensive barrier is nothing more than a 14th Century solution to a 21st Century challenge.”* —Rep. Henry Cuellar, Texas<sup>12</sup>

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## Fences = walls

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***“Calling a 30-foot-tall concrete and steel monstrosity a fence does not change its nature.”***

—Scott Nicol, resident of McAllen, Texas, and co-author of the report *Death, Damage, and Failure: Past, Present and Future Impacts of Walls on the U.S.-Mexico*<sup>13</sup>

**Fences/walls built with FY2018 funds will cut through:**<sup>14</sup>

- Public lands (National Butterfly Center, Bentsen State Park and World Birding Center, Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge)
  - Historic La Lomita chapel
  - Farmers’ riverfront land (some held in their families since 1700s)
  - Rio Grande floodplain, increasing risks of flooding and damage
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## Address the root causes of migration

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***“If you want to stop illegal immigration, stop U.S. demand for drugs, and expand economic opportunity [in Central America]”***

—Former White House Chief of Staff John F. Kelly<sup>15</sup>

***“The U.S. has turned away from addressing the complex causes of immigration and smuggling, and a careful consideration of the most effective ways to respond to these issues, and instead has focused myopically on enforcement and militarizing our borders”***

—*Death, Damage, And Failure: Past, Present, and Future Impacts of Walls on the U.S.-Mexico Border*, ACLU<sup>16</sup>

***“When we work together with well-targeted programs and really targeting them at areas that ... we’re seeing migration, like the Western Highlands of Guatemala where there’s a real poverty and hunger crisis — it’s one of the most food-insecure regions in the hemisphere, huge rates of malnutrition.”***

—Kevin McAleenan, CBP Commissioner<sup>17</sup>

***“You show me a 50-foot wall, and I’ll show you a 51-foot ladder.”***

—Former Secretary of Homeland Security Janet Napolitano<sup>18</sup>

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## Public opposition to border walls

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QUINNIPIAC UNIVERSITY POLL  
DEC. 18, 2018<sup>19</sup>

**Oppose building walls: 54-43%**

Democrats: 90-8      Women: 57-40  
Republicans: 14-86      Men: 51-47  
Independents: 51-45      White voters: 50-49  
Black voters: 78-16  
Hispanic voters: 68-27

**Oppose shutdown: 62-34%**  
because of funding for the wall

REUTERS/IPSOS POLL  
DEC. 27, 2018<sup>20</sup>

**35 % support border wall**  
funding in Fiscal Year 2019  
spending bills

**25% support shutdown**  
over border wall funding

SURVEY OF U.S. BORDER RESIDENTS  
(UNIVISION, DALLAS NEWS AND  
CRONKITE NEWS, JULY 2016)<sup>21</sup>

**Oppose wall: 72%**

**Depend on neighbors in Mexico**  
for economic survival: **79%**

**View people on other side of**  
the border **as criminals: 1%**

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<sup>1</sup> The Monitor, Dec. 19, 2018, [themonitor.com/2018/12/19/cornyn-aims-analyze-deficiencies-ports-entry/](http://themonitor.com/2018/12/19/cornyn-aims-analyze-deficiencies-ports-entry/)

<sup>2</sup> Government Executive, May 2018, [govexec.com/management/2018/05/dhs-needs-hire-more-officers-stop-flow-opioids-report-finds/148134/](http://govexec.com/management/2018/05/dhs-needs-hire-more-officers-stop-flow-opioids-report-finds/148134/)

<sup>3</sup> Senate Judiciary Committee, Dec. 11, 2018, [archive.org/details/CSPAN\\_20181211\\_155000\\_Customs\\_Border\\_Protection\\_Commissioner\\_Testifies\\_Before\\_Senate\\_Judiciary](http://archive.org/details/CSPAN_20181211_155000_Customs_Border_Protection_Commissioner_Testifies_Before_Senate_Judiciary)

<sup>4</sup> Sandhills Express, Dec. 30, 2018, [bit.ly/2G55FXC](http://bit.ly/2G55FXC)

<sup>5</sup> Republican Policy Committee, Sept. 2018, [policy.house.gov/legislative/bills/hr-6400-united-states-ports-entry-threat-and-operational-review-act](http://policy.house.gov/legislative/bills/hr-6400-united-states-ports-entry-threat-and-operational-review-act)

<sup>6</sup> Ibid.

<sup>7</sup> U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration 2017 National Drug Threat Assessment, [dea.gov/documents/2017/10/01/2017-national-drug-threat-assessment](http://dea.gov/documents/2017/10/01/2017-national-drug-threat-assessment)

<sup>8</sup> Cato Institute, Policy Analysis No. 860, Dec. 19, 2018, [cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/how-legalizing-marijuana-securing-border-border-wall-drug-smuggling](http://cato.org/publications/policy-analysis/how-legalizing-marijuana-securing-border-border-wall-drug-smuggling)

<sup>9</sup> Government Executive

<sup>10</sup> Republican Policy Committee

<sup>11</sup> Cato Institute

<sup>12</sup> [cuellar.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=402923](http://cuellar.house.gov/news/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=402923)

<sup>13</sup> “There’s No Real Difference Between Border Walls and Border Fences,” [aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/theres-no-real-difference-between-border-walls-and-border-fences](http://aclu.org/blog/immigrants-rights/theres-no-real-difference-between-border-walls-and-border-fences)

<sup>14</sup> Ibid.

<sup>15</sup> L.A. Times, Dec. 30, 2018, [latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-john-kelly-exit-interview-20181230-story.html](http://latimes.com/politics/la-na-pol-john-kelly-exit-interview-20181230-story.html)

<sup>16</sup> Death, Damage, And Failure: Past, Present, and Future Impacts of Walls on the U.S.-Mexico Border, ACLU, [aclu.org/report/death-damage-and-failure](http://aclu.org/report/death-damage-and-failure)

<sup>17</sup> Sandhills Express

<sup>18</sup> From a 2007 address to the National Press Club, [grist.org/article/napolitano-knows/](http://grist.org/article/napolitano-knows/)

<sup>19</sup> Quinnipiac University, Dec. 18, 2018, [poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2590](http://poll.qu.edu/national/release-detail?ReleaseID=2590)

<sup>20</sup> Reuters/Ipsos poll, Dec. 27, 2018, [reuters.com/article/us-usa-shutdown-poll/more-americans-blame-trump-for-government-shutdown-reuters-ipsos-poll-idUSKCN10Q1FA](http://reuters.com/article/us-usa-shutdown-poll/more-americans-blame-trump-for-government-shutdown-reuters-ipsos-poll-idUSKCN10Q1FA)

<sup>21</sup> Univision, Dallas News and Cronkite News survey, July 2016, [interactives.dallasnews.com/2016/border-poll/](http://interactives.dallasnews.com/2016/border-poll/)