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Committee on Armed Services  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

First of all, let me introduce myself; my name is Dan Lane and I am Sheriff of St. Clair County, Michigan. I have been a police officer for 38 years in St. Clair County. The last 18 years of which, I have been the elected Sheriff of St. Clair County. During my career I have worked in the jail, radio communications, drug unit, road patrol, and now as the elected Sheriff. I have seen a lot over the last 38 years.

A little bit of history; St. Clair County is a border community which borders Sarnia, Ontario, Canada and Lambton County. It has, what we describe as, a liquid border being Lake Huron, St. Clair River, and Lake St. Clair which divides us from Canada. The border itself is approximately 110 miles long. Many places in the St. Clair River and especially in the south part of the county from Algonac down to Lake St. Clair, the river is less than ¼ mile wide in the north and south channels. We have three international crossings, Blue Water Bridge in Port Huron, Lambton Ferry crosses in Marine City, and the Walpole Island Ferry which crosses in Algonac.

This river has been renowned for years as a smuggling point between the United States and Canada. I, along with many of my colleagues who have talked in the past, realize the smuggling dates back to the 1920's and the 1930's when liquor was bootlegged from Canada into the United States. In the mid 1970's and 1980's narcotics and guns were transported to and from Canada. From the 1980's to present narcotics, cigarettes, and illegal immigrants are being smuggled.

While assigned to a narcotics unit in St. Clair County in the late 1970's and early 1980's I personally was involved in taking over 700 kilos of Methamphetamines in the south channel of the St. Clair River into Lake St. Clair. Working along with ATF and the Royal Canadian Mounted Police, on the same operation, 700 MAC10 Machine Guns were confiscated during a raid on two different boats.

I personally took part in a smuggling operation where ingenious individuals, using rims from cars, made a trailer to fit the railroad tracks in the tunnel going between Port Huron

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and Sarnia, Ontario. We successfully stopped 800 kilos of high grade marijuana from going into Canada and several hundred kilos of cocaine coming back into the United States, all on the same car. This again, was a joint operation between the RCMP and local police.

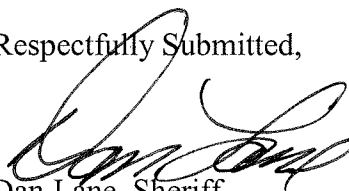
On many occasions in the recent past at the Blue Water Bridge the U.S. Customs and U.S. Border Protection have been able to stop, with their new technology, several hundred pounds of marijuana and precursory drugs to make methamphetamines coming into the United States.

Even in the most recent past with the addition of many U.S. Border Patrol Agents and U.S. Customs Officers at the bridge, St. Clair County and the St. Clair River area are highly vulnerable to smuggling. The U.S. Border Patrol on many occasions has stopped and encountered the smuggling of illegal immigrants by Native Americans into the United States. They have documented large amounts of money that was paid by the foreign individuals to be smuggled into the United States.

The reason these incidents take place more often in the summer months from Memorial Day through Labor Day is due to the fact our area is highly recreational. St. Clair County has recreational boat travel between the Canadian waters and the United States waters on a regular basis throughout the summer months. This makes it very hard for U.S. Border Protection, U.S. Border Patrol, and St. Clair County Sheriff's Marine Division to be aware of every boat that is traveling in the St. Clair River to and from Canada. Even though we make a valid effort to watch this activity, we know there is a major portion of illegal activity occurring because of our limited man power.

I would be more than happy to make suggestions for the future and address any specific issues to the Committee on Armed Services, with honest and forthright answers, that occurred in the last 38 years of being a police officer and is of my knowledge.

Respectfully Submitted,



Dan Lane, Sheriff  
St. Clair County, MI

DL/adb