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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

March 25, 2009

**COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION  
AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AVIATION  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HIGHWAYS AND TRANSIT  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
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**COMMITTEE ON  
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY**

SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TECHNOLOGY AND INNOVATION

**VIA FACSIMILE**

The Honorable Barack Obama  
President  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Mr. President:

Thank you for dispatching some much needed resources to address the growing threat posed by Mexican drug cartels. As you know, the crime associated with these drug and weapons smuggling operations are resulting in dangerous levels of criminal activity, especially in Arizona. In 2008, Phoenix had more kidnappings for ransom than any other U.S. city.

The resources are a good first step, and I commend your willingness to consider sending additional assistance. Toward that end, I wish to encourage you to consider sending National Guard troops to the region.

Operation Jump Start, which concluded its mission last year proved remarkably effective. According to the U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, the Yuma Sector experienced a 68 percent decrease in apprehensions between October 1, 2006, and July 31, 2007, compared with the previous year. Border-wide, the National Guard helped seize more than 1080 vehicles used to transport drugs and/or illegal immigrants; more than 300,600 pounds of marijuana; and 5060 pounds of cocaine.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Harry E. Mitchell".

Harry E. Mitchell  
Member of Congress