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***“Keeping the Border Secure: Examining Potential Threats Posed by
Cross Border Trucking”***

Good morning Madam Chairwoman Jackson-Lee, and Members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for this opportunity to discuss with you today U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) efforts to both strengthen the security of cargo entering our borders and facilitate the flow of legitimate trade and travel.

CBP has made great strides toward securing America's borders, facilitating legitimate trade and travel, and ensuring the vitality of our economy. As America's frontline border agency, our priority mission is to protect the American public against terrorists and the instruments of terror while at the same time enforcing the laws of the United States and fostering the Nation's economic security through lawful travel and trade. Today, trained CBP Officers, technology, automation, electronic information, and partnerships with the trade and foreign governments are concepts that underpin CBP's cargo security and anti-terrorism initiatives. These concepts extend our zone of security outward and reinforce the components of our layered defense strategy.

As we work toward securing our ports and borders, we must also continue to perform our traditional missions, which include stemming the flow of illegal drugs and other contraband, protecting our agricultural and economic interests from harmful pests and diseases, protecting American businesses from theft of their intellectual property, regulating and facilitating international trade, collecting import duties, and enforcing United States trade laws. In FY 2006, CBP processed more than 422.8 million pedestrians and passengers, 131 million conveyances, 28.8 million trade entries, scanned and physically examined 5.6 million sea, rail, and truck containers, intercepted 1.1 million illegal aliens between our ports of entry intercepted more than 2.7 million prohibited plant and animal products, and seized more than 2.2 million pounds of narcotics.

In order to accomplish our mission of securing America's borders and facilitating trade, CBP has developed a layered enforcement strategy, part of CBP's philosophy of a smart and extended border security strategy designed to protect the global supply chain, our country, our economy—and ultimately, others

countries and the global economy. I will focus my comments today on our efforts at the land borders. CBP utilizes advance cargo information, automated targeting and screening, private and public partnerships and cutting edge technology in order to gain operational control and protect the Nation at and between ports of entry.

- ***Advance Electronic Cargo Information:*** As required by the Trade Act of 2002, advance cargo information must be provided through the CBP-approved automated data interchange. For truck cargo, the Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) is the approved system and information must be provided 1 hour prior to the arrival of the truck at the border crossing for non-Free and Secure Trade (FAST) shipments or 30 minutes prior to arrival for FAST shipments. ACE has made electronic risk management far more effective by allowing full security screening by the Automated Commercial System (ACS) Selectivity module and the Automated Targeting System (ATS).
- ***Automated Targeting System:*** CBP uses ATS to identify cargo that may pose a threat. CBP's Office of Intelligence and the National Targeting Center (NTC) enhance these initiatives by synthesizing information to provide tactical targeting. Using risk management techniques they evaluate people and goods to identify a suspicious individual or shipment before it can reach our borders. To broaden the scope of CBP targeting, NTC works with other DHS components, law enforcement agencies and governments, expanding its staff to better accommodate the ever-increasing demands for tactical information and continues to develop and refine more sophisticated targeting tools.
- ***Public and Private Partnerships:*** CBP has developed several partnerships with industry to enhance security and facilitate trade. Foremost among these are Free and Secure Trade (FAST) and the Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT). The FAST program, which is operational on both our northern and southern borders, establishes bilateral initiatives between the United States and NAFTA partners designed to ensure security and safety while enhancing the economic prosperity of partner countries. In developing this program, Mexico and the United States have agreed to coordinate to the maximum extent possible, their commercial processes for clearance of commercial shipments at the border. This promotes free and secure trade by using common risk-management principles, supply chain security, industry partnership, and advanced technology to improve the efficiency of screening and clearing commercial traffic at our shared border. FAST is a harmonized clearance process for shipments of known compliant importers. Thus, any truck using FAST lane processing must be a Customs-Trade Partnership Against Terrorism (C-TPAT) approved carrier, carrying qualifying goods from a C-TPAT approved manufacturer, and importer, and the driver must possess a valid FAST-Commercial Driver Card. C-TPAT is a voluntary government-business initiative to build cooperative relationships

that strengthen and improve overall international supply chain and U.S. border security. C-TPAT recognizes that CBP can provide the highest level of cargo security only through close cooperation with the ultimate owners of the international supply chain such as importers, carriers, consolidators, licensed customs brokers, and manufacturers.

The C-TPAT program also has undertaken a strong enforcement posture. The agency suspends or removes members from the program who have misled CBP as to their security measures, or whose security is so lax as to allow the supply chain to be breached, as evidenced by a narcotics or human smuggling incident at the port of entry. Over 100 companies have been suspended or removed in the past year.

- ***Use of Cutting-Edge Technology:*** Given the magnitude of CBP's responsibility the development and deployment of sophisticated detection technology is essential. Deployment of Non-Intrusive Inspection (NII) technology is increasing and viewed as "force multipliers" that enable CBP officers to screen or examine a larger portion of the stream of commercial traffic. CBP is currently utilizing large-scale X-ray and gamma ray machines and radiation detection devices to screen cargo.

All CBP Ports of Entry and Border Patrol Stations have access to the Automated Biometric Identification System/Integrated Automated Fingerprint Identification System otherwise known as IDENT/IAFIS, which was established to merge the capabilities of the FBI's criminal master fingerprint file and the former Immigration and Naturalization Service's immigration violator database. These systems have been integrated into one system that captures biometric and biographical information through the use of a "10 Print" fingerprint machine and computer based facial imagery. The goals of the system are to identify repeat immigration offenders and identify criminals and previously deported aliens who should be detained.

In addition to NII and IAFIS, CBP Border Patrol agents are better securing areas between the ports of entry through the use of the Integrated Surveillance Intelligence System (ISIS), a system that uses remotely monitored night-day camera and sensing systems to better detect, monitor, and respond to illegal crossings; Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) for monitoring remote land border areas where patrols cannot easily travel and infrastructure is difficult or impossible to build; Remote Video Surveillance Systems (RVSS) that provide coverage 24 hours a day, 7 days a week to detect illegal crossings on our northern and southern borders; and the Geographic Information System (GIS) to track illegal migration patterns.

Madam Chairwoman Jackson-Lee, Members of the Subcommittee, I have briefly addressed CBP's initiatives that help CBP protect America against terrorists and the instruments of terror, while at the same time enforcing the laws of the United

States and fostering the Nation's economic security through lawful travel and trade. With the continued support of the President, DHS, and the Congress, CBP will succeed in meeting the challenges posed by the ongoing terrorist threat and the need to facilitate ever-increasing numbers of legitimate shipments and travelers.

Thank you again for this opportunity to testify. I will be happy to answer any of your questions.