



Testimony
of

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on

The Fiscal Year 2027 Budget for U.S. Customs and Border Protection

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Introduction

Chairman Amodei, Ranking Member Cuellar, and distinguished Members of the Subcommittee, thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today to discuss the President's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 Budget for U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). As America's unified border agency, CBP is responsible for knowing and controlling everything and everyone that crosses our border. Every day, more than 68,000 dedicated men and women of CBP stand watch at and between our ports of entry (POE), in the air and maritime environments, and across the Nation, ensuring the security and prosperity of our country.

It is my honor to serve as CBP Commissioner during one of the most consequential periods in the history of America's border security. Under the decisive leadership of President Donald J. Trump, and thanks to the tireless efforts of thousands of dedicated public servants, CBP has fundamentally reversed years of open-border policies, achieving record-low illegal entries between POEs. These results reflect a clear commitment to restoring the rule of law, prioritizing the safety of the American people, and empowering our officers and agents to fulfill their critical mission.

CBP has spent the past 15 months implementing President Trump's Executive Orders to restore security and order after the four previous years of record encounters, overwhelmed detention facilities and personnel, inadequate deterrence measures, and humanitarian catastrophe. CBP also implemented more than 40 Executive Orders to ensure secure, fair, and compliant trade. When the Federal Government does not enforce our laws at the border, it fails to protect American businesses and workers; to prevent human trafficking, including the trafficking of children; and to keep dangerous people and illicit drugs from entering the United States.

As the longest shutdown in history continues, CBP implores the House to pass the Senate DHS funding bill and work expeditiously to enact a second reconciliation measure by June 1st to provide sustained funding to ICE and Border Patrol.

A Year of Unprecedented Enforcement and Deterrence

Today, by prioritizing law enforcement and leveraging the authorities granted to us by Congress, the United States has the most secure border in our Nation's history. We have utilized the unprecedented resources enacted to CBP by Congress to maximize operational effectiveness, applied consequences for those who break our laws, and empowered our workforce to do their jobs. Although we have experienced tremendous success in securing our borders, every day is a new battle to prevent terrorists, cartels, and other criminals from operating within our country and threatening the American people. We must remain vigilant and continue to pursue effective policies and practices to sustain our security posture. National security cannot exist without effective border security — the first line of defense. Over the past year, our enforcement efforts have been nothing short of historic across all our operational environments.

Daily encounters have declined by 96 percent, averaging approximately 250 per day, compared to more than 5,000 per day during the Biden Administration. We have also seen historically low numbers of known gotaways — illegal aliens who evade apprehension by CBP. We ended the practice of “catch-and-release,” prioritized detention and removal authorities, and sent a clear

message that illegal entry into the United States will not be incentivized and rewarded. Instead, consequences will be delivered consistent with existing law. For ten consecutive months, U.S. Border Patrol has not released into the interior any alien who entered without authorization into the United States, a powerful reflection of restored control of our border.

Policy changes and decreased encounters have allowed us to act more strategically and execute data-driven targeted operations. This has led to increased enforcement actions. For example, since January 21, 2025, CBP seized nearly 721,000 pounds of illicit drugs nationwide, a 15 percent increase over the prior year. This included nearly 13,000 pounds of fentanyl, 211,000 pounds of methamphetamine, and significant quantities of cocaine, heroin, and marijuana.¹

CBP's robust trade enforcement actions have resulted in the assessment of approximately \$1.4 billion in duties by identifying and holding accountable those who attempt to circumvent U.S. trade laws. We have successfully stopped goods produced by forced labor from entering U.S. commerce, closed the *de minimis* loophole to recover more than \$1.0 billion in previously uncollected duties, and seized millions of counterfeit goods that threaten consumers, American businesses, and supply chains.

Working Families Tax Cuts Act

I want to express my sincere gratitude to Congress for passing the "Working Families Tax Cut Act" (P.L. 119-21). The \$65 billion this legislation provided represents the largest investment in border security ever, providing for modern infrastructure, advanced technology, and increased law enforcement personnel, enabling CBP to rebuild and modernize our border security posture, and to support our frontline workforce.

The President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget not only enables CBP to sustain its progress in safeguarding the border by funding critical personnel, technology, and infrastructure, but also ensures that CBP can fully deploy and evaluate the effectiveness of resources and assets funded by the Working Families Tax Cut Act. The Budget factors in these new investments and ensures they have the support needed to realize their full potential. Working together, these funding vehicles allow CBP to further strengthen our ability to secure our borders, enforce trade laws, and facilitate lawful travel and trade.

My testimony today will provide an overview of the President's Fiscal Year 2027 Budget and demonstrate how these critical resources enable CBP to prioritize enforcement against cartel-linked trafficking, strengthen counternarcotics efforts, and enhance both immigration and trade enforcement. I will highlight key investment priorities in infrastructure, assets, technology, and our workforce, illustrating how these investments support CBP's mission and enhance our ability to secure the border.

FY 2027 Budget: Overview and Priorities

The Budget includes \$18.5 billion in discretionary funding for CBP. This funding, when combined with the historic investments provided by the Working Families Tax Cut Act, enables CBP to fully implement the President's border security strategy to defend the Homeland. The

¹ As of February 28, 2026.

Budget ensures that we have the operational resources necessary to implement, sustain, and maximize the impact of these investments, delivering immediate and enduring security benefits for the American people. The Budget prioritizes investments in personnel, border security infrastructure, technology, assets, counternarcotics, and frontline operational needs to fulfill our critical mission and the President's Executive Orders to secure the Nation's borders.

Securing the Border with Advanced Technology, Infrastructure, and Assets

At and between POEs, CBP is responsible for securing more than 5,000 miles of border with Canada, over 1,900 miles of border with Mexico, and approximately 95,000 miles of shoreline. To deter and prevent the illegal entry of people and contraband across diverse land, air, and maritime environments, CBP deploys advanced technology, infrastructure, and assets tailored to address emerging threats and rapidly changing conditions. The Budget supports the sustainment and continued deployment of proven resources and capabilities, strengthening border security operations.

Tactical infrastructure strengthens CBP's operational capabilities between the POEs by creating persistent impedance and facilitating the deterrence and prevention of illegal entries. The Budget fully funds the maintenance of over 300 miles of newly constructed border infrastructure, including the Smart Wall systems, roads, lighting, and surveillance technology. CBP has already placed more than \$21.0 billion in Smart Wall funding on contract, with all remaining barrier construction contracts scheduled for award by June 30, 2026. We anticipate completing up to 250 miles of new barriers by September 30, 2026. Additionally, in January 2026, CBP began installing waterborne barriers in the Rio Grande Valley, denying smugglers a key avenue for trafficking people and narcotics, enhancing natural and land-based barriers, and providing a safer operating environment for our agents. Tactical infrastructure maintenance funding will ensure that CBP can implement maintenance contracts, program support services, and recapitalization of assets in disrepair, improving infrastructure effectiveness and meeting deferred maintenance needs.

Technology, used in conjunction with tactical infrastructure, serves as a force multiplier by enhancing situational awareness, improving detection and interdiction of illegal activity, and increasing the safety and effectiveness of frontline personnel. Strategically deployed along the border, CBP's fixed surveillance technology provides persistent coverage to efficiently detect unauthorized crossings. The Budget provides an additional \$12.7 million for CBP's Integrated Surveillance Towers Program to maintain deployed equipment, including inspections, repairs, parts, and software for 890 surveillance towers. The Budget also includes an increase of \$6.7 million for the Linear Ground Detection System, which will maintain more than 1,800 operational miles of this advanced detection system, supporting maintenance, training, and algorithm improvements to detect and respond to illicit activity.

Once detection is confirmed, reliable communication networks are critical to CBP's ability to respond to illicit activity effectively and safely. The Budget includes \$20.2 million for the Advanced Deliverable Voice Operational Network and \$12.5 million for the Team Awareness Kit program, enhancing law enforcement coordination systems and supporting real-time tracking, situational awareness, and effective communication across the border environment. Enhanced device capabilities will improve communication, increase situational awareness, and strengthen

the effectiveness and safety of law enforcement operations. These investments provide agents with mobile access to vital operational data and the ability to collect and disseminate tactical information, allowing agents to rapidly and accurately distinguish between friendly forces and potential threats with real-time visualization within a geospatial context.

Air and marine assets further expand CBP's situational awareness and law enforcement capabilities, extending our border zones and offering greater capacity to stop threats before they reach our borders. The Budget strengthens CBP's Air and Marine Operations by providing investments in aircraft and maritime assets, including \$155 million for one C-130J Super Hercules maritime patrol aircraft, replacing CBP's aging P-3 Orion fleet. With sophisticated sensors and high endurance, the C-130J's advanced capabilities greatly increase CBP's range and effectiveness in countering illicit trafficking. An additional \$30.0 million is provided for Persistent Wide Area Air Surveillance technologies, and \$21.0 million to support contract costs necessary to expand asset capability and integrate new sensor equipment. These assets will enhance CBP's ability to detect, interdict, and disrupt transnational criminal organizations and narcotics traffickers before they reach our communities.

Through sustained investment in infrastructure, technology, communication systems, and air and marine assets, CBP is able to address evolving threats and maintain robust security across our nation's borders. These enhancements not only increase operational effectiveness and agent safety but also ensure that CBP can adapt to emerging threats and new challenges in the border environment.

Strengthening Port of Entry Security and Operations

At our nation's 328 land, air, and sea POEs, as well as our preclearance and pre-inspection locations around the world, CBP works to prevent dangerous people and contraband — including lethal illicit drugs like fentanyl — from entering the United States, while facilitating the lawful flow of international trade and travel.

POE security operations, including personnel, technology, and infrastructure, are central to CBP's counternarcotics activities. The majority of illicit drug seizures occur at these locations, with CBP seizing nearly 194,000 pounds of illicit drugs at Southwest Border POEs alone during FY 2025. To ensure the effective and safe destruction of these dangerous drugs, the Budget provides \$3.0 million for narcotics incinerators at POEs. The Budget also provides funding for improvements to POE infrastructure and technology to prevent the entry of dangerous people and contraband.

Foreign terrorist organizations and cartels relentlessly seek new and increasingly sophisticated methods to move contraband and illicit drugs across the border, leveraging substantial resources that extend beyond traditional concealment techniques. The nefarious use of drones at POEs and between POEs enables criminals to conduct surveillance, exploit vulnerabilities, and deliver harmful payloads, putting CBP personnel and critical infrastructure at risk. These devices disrupt inspections, cargo processing, and vehicle movements, creating delays and making it harder for law enforcement to detect and intercept illegal substances. The Budget provides \$80 million for CBP to procure and deploy Counter-Unmanned Aircraft System equipment at priority POEs to detect, identify, monitor, and mitigate nefarious drone activity.

In addition to our counternarcotics efforts, CBP remains vigilant against other threats at our POEs. For instance, CBP uses Radiation Portal Monitor (RPM) technology to scan cargo and vehicles for radiological and nuclear materials at land and sea POEs. CBP has been prioritizing the deployment of advanced systems to high-volume POEs and rail crossings that ensure effective detection, less operational burden, and minimal disruptions to the flow of lawful trade and travel. In further support of these critical operations, the Budget transfers \$40.0 million and 13 positions from the Department of Homeland Security Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction (CWMD) Component to CBP to support our Radiation Portal Monitor Program, Radiation Portal Monitor Replacement Program, and International Rail Program.

The Budget funds several initiatives to improve facilities that support critical POE operations, including \$22.5 million for port hardening measures to prevent incursions, minimize operational disruptions, and protect assets and personnel from external threats. The Budget also supports \$43.1 million for the design and construction of Sensitive Compartmented Information Facilities (SCIFs) in several key operational locations. SCIFs provide real-time access to classified intelligence, enabling CBP's Intelligence Enterprise and Regional Intelligence Centers to integrate partner agency information, produce actionable intelligence, and support intelligence-driven operations.

The Budget also provides \$31.6 million to construct and modernize outdated laboratory facilities to keep pace with increasing forensic demands and effectively address the complexities of synthetic drug trafficking. Strengthened forensic capabilities and deeper collaboration with federal partners enable law enforcement to accurately trace drug origins, disrupt trafficking networks, and safeguard public safety with greater effectiveness. For example, with funding provided by the Budget, and in partnership with the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Food and Drug Administration, CBP will make improvements at the Joint Fentanyl Signature Laboratory (also known as INTREPID Laboratory) that will enable scientists to trace the origin and trafficking routes of fentanyl, maintain scientific neutrality, and deliver actionable information for counternarcotics operations.

These targeted investments in personnel, technology, and infrastructure at POEs are essential to CBP's mission of protecting the United States from a wide range of threats while maintaining the efficient flow of legitimate trade and travel. By enhancing detection capabilities, strengthening operational resilience, and improving forensic and intelligence facilities, CBP is better equipped to address evolving risks and support secure, lawful cross-border activity.

Advancing Trade Enforcement

As the nation's unified border agency, CBP also plays a central role in protecting American businesses, workers, and consumers by ensuring that all imports comply with U.S. law, that duties owed are fully collected, and that unfair or illegal trade practices are identified and addressed.

CBP recognizes the critical importance of its trade enforcement responsibilities in safeguarding our Nation's economic security. Strong trade enforcement is critical for upholding fair competition, protecting domestic industry, and American jobs. Non-compliant importers, brokers,

and other bad actors look for ways to evade duties and exploit weaknesses in trade enforcement measures, distorting markets and prices, harming U.S. manufacturers and workers, and depriving the United States of lawful revenue.

CBP's Automated Commercial Environment (ACE) is the United States's centralized digital system for processing imports and exports. With limited exceptions, importers and exporters are required to use ACE to provide detailed information, enabling CBP and partner government agencies to collect tariff revenue, control imports, and enforce regulations. The Budget invests \$101.5 million in modernizing ACE by upgrading outdated architecture, automating manual processes, and improving visibility into the import lifecycle. This modernization enhances efficiency and transparency, enables earlier access to actionable data, accelerates import responses, facilitates seamless international data exchange, increases supply chain visibility, reduces compliance redundancies, and supports more accurate enforcement decisions. Additionally, the Budget provides an increase of \$34.6 million and 31 positions allowing for the migration of remaining legacy functionality into the ACE cloud environment and strengthening CBP's ability to enforce trade laws and monitor supply chains more effectively. Increased staffing and technical expertise will enable CBP to make more informed, timely enforcement decisions, ultimately improving operational efficiency and public service.

CBP's ability to identify and respond to emerging threats and non-compliance in the trade environment is central to its enforcement strategy. The Budget includes an increase of \$9.0 million to support CBP's Advanced Trade Analytics Platform, which leverages artificial intelligence, analytic modeling, machine learning, and case management capabilities. This platform rapidly analyzes trade activity and assists with the enforcement of illicit activity and tariff evasion. Additionally, these capabilities support the America First Trade Policy, as well as our enforcement of the Priority Trade Issues, and emerging issues such as transshipment, forced labor, antidumping/countervailing duties, and intellectual property rights infringement.

CBP's commitment to trade enforcement, modernizing trade systems, and leveraging advanced analytics protects American economic and national security interests in a complex global trade environment. By investing in technology, data-driven platforms, and enhanced enforcement measures, CBP promotes fair competition, safeguards supply chains, and supports economic growth.

Integrated Mission Support

As CBP strengthens our border security and trade enforcement capabilities, it is important to ensure that agency-wide professional staff are equipped to sustain these efforts. The seamless integration of personnel, facilities, assets, and information technology enables CBP to respond effectively to any emerging threat. Investments in hiring, workforce care, information technology modernization, and facility updates are critical to maintaining operational readiness and supporting CBP's complex mission.

CBP's workforce is the foundation of our mission, and we are committed to fielding the best law enforcement professionals in America. Importantly, the FY 2027 Budget provides \$474 million necessary to sustain our previous Border Patrol staffing level of 22,000 agents. The Working Families Tax Cut Act enables CBP to add frontline capacity with 3,000 additional Border Patrol

agents as well as 5,000 CBP officers and 200 Air and Marine Operations agents, and we are making considerable progress with each of these hiring targets. We are focused on attracting the most qualified candidates, expediting their hiring process timelines, and ensuring they receive the best possible training through the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) and on duty. The Budget also includes \$9.0 million for workforce care programs that provide emergency backup care, childcare subsidies, and holistic health-support centers to support CBP's workforce in the face of significant stressors and challenges.

Building on workforce investments, the Budget takes prudent actions to strengthen agency-wide mission support, ensuring CBP's operational priorities are sustained. Efforts to modernize technology infrastructure, enhance cybersecurity, and improve information technology operations are prioritized to maintain readiness across all mission areas. Investments in facility expansion and maintenance support safe, efficient, and effective operations, while improvements in technical support and training bolster the capabilities of CBP personnel. Collectively, these actions enable CBP to respond rapidly to emerging threats, support workforce resilience, strengthen interagency partnerships, and sustain high-tempo operations across a complex and evolving border environment.

Conclusion

In closing, the President's FY 2027 Budget acknowledges the significant challenges and serious threats confronting CBP and our Nation each day and provides the resources needed to address them. The Budget builds on the historic investments made through the Working Families Tax Cut Act, enabling CBP to sustain vital operations and pursue new initiatives necessary to fulfill our critical and complex mission.

With the support of Congress, CBP will continue to advance our broad and critical mission to keep terrorists and their weapons out of the United States, secure our borders, enforce our trade laws and facilitate lawful trade and travel.

I want to thank the Members of this Subcommittee for your continued support of CBP. I look forward to your questions.