

JOE MANCHIN III
WEST VIRGINIA

SUITE 306
HART BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3954

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-4804

ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES COMMITTEE
ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE
VETERANS' AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

September 16, 2015

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

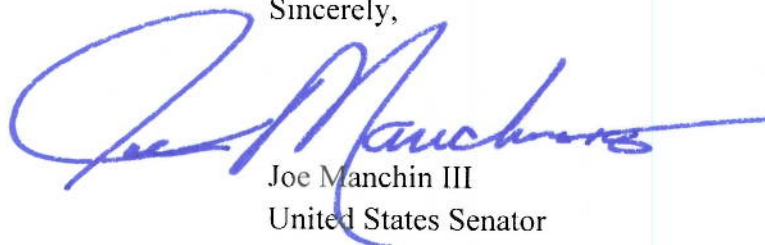
Dear Secretary Johnson:

As you know, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is the law enforcement entity responsible for managing the nation's 328 air, land, and sea ports of entry. It plays a major role in promoting economic development by facilitating international trade and travel and enforcing hundreds of laws and regulations that protect American businesses from illegal foreign competition. Unfortunately, since the December 31, 2014, retirement of Officer Norm Justice, the state of West Virginia has been without a CBP officer, and we cannot afford to wait any longer.

According to a study conducted by the National Center for Risk and Economic Analysis of Terrorism Events at the University of Southern California, adding a single CBP officer equates to annual benefits of \$2 million in gross domestic product, \$640,000 in saved opportunity costs, and 33 jobs added to the economy. Yeager Airport was the gateway to West Virginia for international visitors, and Officer Justice was the only CBP presence in the state. The decision to leave his post vacant for the past nine months has diverted significant economic activity to neighboring states and put West Virginia at a severe competitive disadvantage, and I respectfully request your assistance in resolving this matter as soon as possible.

While there is nothing we can do about what has happened, we can level the playing field for West Virginia businesses and give them a chance to compete in a global marketplace going forward. There are exciting business opportunities on the horizon which depend on a reliable CBP presence at Yeager Airport, and I am hopeful that we can work together to resolve this matter in the near future. Should you have any questions or need any additional information, please contact Wes Kungel in my office at (202) 224-0162 or wes_kungel@manchin.senate.gov for more information.

Sincerely,



Joe Manchin III
United States Senator