



NATIONAL BORDER PATROL COUNCIL

of the

American Federation of Government Employees

Affiliated with AFL-CIO



September 24, 2009

The Honorable Tom Coburn
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Coburn:

The United States Border Patrol is charged with the formidable task of securing our Nation's borders, and confronts numerous obstacles that hinder the accomplishment of that goal, including rugged terrain, extreme climatic conditions, an overwhelming number of people crossing the border illegally, and violence perpetrated by smugglers and other criminals. Bureaucratic regulations that prevent Border Patrol agents from utilizing vehicles and technology on public lands should be the least of their concerns, but unfortunately are not.

Your amendment to the Fiscal Year 2010 appropriations bill for Interior, Environment and Related Agencies that would preclude the use any of those funds to impede, prohibit, or restrict any activities of the Department of Homeland Security on public lands that are undertaken to achieve operational control of our borders is therefore greatly appreciated by the dedicated men and women of the U.S. Border Patrol.

Sincerely,

T.J. Bonner
President
National Border Patrol Council
AFGE, AFL-CIO
P.O. Box 678
Campo, CA 91906