



**One Hundred Thirteenth Congress
U.S. House of Representatives
Committee on Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20515**

February 1, 2013

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
301 7th Street SW – Mail Stop 0200
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

I write to request information about the potential impact of the pending sequestration on the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) ability to operate and execute all of its homeland security and non-homeland security missions. Specifically, I am seeking information on how significant funding reductions for fiscal year 2013 will affect the activities carried out at each of DHS' components.

My understanding is that sequestration, which is due to take affect one month from today, would result in across-the-board cuts at the Department that range from 7.6 percent to 9.4 percent, with most budgets reduced by about 8.2 percent.

As March 1, 2013 approaches, it is imperative that Congress has a clear understanding of how the failure to implement an alternative to the sequester will affect the capabilities and capacity of the Department and its components to protect our nation and meet the unique security challenges of a post-9/11 world. Accordingly, pursuant to Rule X and Rule XI of the House of Representatives, please respond to the following questions:

1. How do you anticipate the sequester will affect operations of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) in FY 2013? Congress has made significant investments in border security since 2007. How do you expect the funding cuts to affect staffing levels of Border Patrol Agents and CBP Officers, and how will the reduced staffing levels affect activities affect ports of entry? How will the sequester affect screening of the global supply chain?
2. How do you expect the sequester will affect the wide range of investigative and enforcement activities of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)? Specifically, how do you expect the sequester to affect ICE staffing levels? To what extent do you anticipate immigration enforcement and detention and removal activities to be affected?

3. How do you anticipate the sequester will affect Transportation Security Administration (TSA) operations? Specifically, what impact do you expect it to have on TSA staffing levels at our Nation's airports, in the field, and at headquarters? Have you been able to assess what impact potential decreases to screening operations would have on airport wait times?
4. How do you expect the sequester to affect the capacity and capabilities of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to execute all its missions? Specifically, how do you expect the sequester to affect USCG staffing levels and the USCG critical recapitalization program?
5. What impact do you anticipate the sequester to have on the operations of the U.S. Secret Service (USSS)? What affect do expect the sequester to have on the USSS' capacity to execute its protection and investigative missions?
6. How do you expect the sequester will affect the activities carried out by the National Protection and Programs Directorate (NPPD)? Bearing in mind the criticality of DHS' cyber operations, what reductions in capacity or capabilities do you anticipate as a result of the sequester? How would the sequester affect other important infrastructure protection priorities, including implementation of the Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards and the Secure Handling of Ammonium Nitrate programs?
7. How do you expect the sequester will affect Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) operations? In particular, how would the sequester affect the Disaster Relief Fund and FEMA's ability to assist State and local governments in a timely manner as they respond to and recover from major disasters? How do you anticipate the sequester will affect State and local grant programs, including the Urban Area Security Initiative, the State Homeland Security Program, the Emergency Management Preparedness Grant program, and Fire Grants?
8. How do you expect the sequester will affect the Science and Technology Directorate? Specifically, how do you expect the sequester will affect important research and development priorities?
9. What other Department priorities do you expect will be negatively impacted should sequestration go into effect on March 1, 2013?

Given the time-sensitive nature of this request, I ask that you provide a prompt response. It is critical that Congress understand, in practical terms, the homeland security gains that risk being lost because of sequestration. If you have any questions or require additional information, please contact Rosaline Cohen, Chief Counsel for Legislation, at (202) 226-2616.

Sincerely,



Bennie G. Thompson
Ranking Member