

# United States Senate

April 24, 2019

John P. Sanders  
Acting Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Mr. Sanders:

After traveling around Montana visiting with local law enforcement, tribes, urgent care providers, and treatment centers and having personally visited the border and spent time with Border Patrol Agents on the front line, I have seen first-hand that my home state and the United States is suffering from a methamphetamine epidemic. According to publically accessible resources, U.S. Border Patrol Methamphetamine seizures have risen from 3,930lbs in FY2014 to 11,314lbs and CPB Office of Field Operations drug Seizures have risen from 19,613lbs in FY2014 to 56,362lbs in FY2018.<sup>1</sup> Similarly, in Montana we have seen a 475% increase in methamphetamine cases between 2011 and 2017.<sup>2</sup> This rise in methamphetamine use has led to a rise in violent crime and is straining resources on our local, state, and federal law enforcement.

While Congress and most of the United States has been focused on the opioid crisis that is devastating American families it is important that we do not turn a blind-eye to the effects of rising methamphetamine use. Congress recently took much-needed action on the opioid crisis and I hope we can do the same with the meth epidemic. With the demands that the opioid crisis has and continues to place on CBP personnel and the new strain that methamphetamine has placed on CBP, especially at the southern border, I want to ensure that CBP has adequate resources to meet growing demands from drug control. Following up on questions to CBP in October 2018, from the former ranking member of the Senate Homeland Security Committee, I respectfully request the following information in order to better understand the impact of methamphetamine smuggling across the southern border and the affects it has on CBP officers.

1. The number of methamphetamine seizures each year, by month between January 1, 2012 and December 31, 2018. For each seizure, please provide the amount seized, the method of transport, the location of seizure, and if known, the intended destination of the seizure and the origin of production.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.cbp.gov/newsroom/stats/cbp-enforcement-statistics>

<sup>2</sup> <https://doimt.gov/montana-department-of-justice-releases-2017-annual-crime-lab-report/>

2. If the origin of production is known, detail the efforts of CBP, in collaboration with other U.S. agencies, to work with foreign government authorities to locate and stop production at the source.
3. If known, the amount of methamphetamine seized that was intended for Montana.
4. The amount and percentage of officers dedicated to methamphetamine interdiction.
5. A description of any trends that CBP has identified that are affecting CBP's ability to detect illicit methamphetamine shipments and how CBP adapts to meet these emerging threats.
6. Recommendations for how Congress can help ensure that CBP has the resources necessary to stop these dangerous substances from entering our country.

I respectfully request that you provide this information by May 17, 2019.

Thank you for your service and attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES

United States Senator