

**MEDIA RELEASE: ONE STEP CLOSER, US HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
APPROPRIATES MONEY FOR DOUGLAS COMMERCIAL PORT OF ENTRY**

(Douglas, Arizona) June 17, 2019



Congresswoman Ann Kirkpatrick's State Director, Ron Barber, met with Douglas Mayor Robert Uribe on Friday, June 14, 2019 to personally share the great news that the Congresswoman has been successful in moving money for the proposed commercial Douglas Port of Entry out of the House Appropriations Committee via the 2020 Homeland Security spending bill. Nearly \$1.2 billion is slated for land-based Ports of Entry across the US, and the Raul H. Castro Port in Douglas will be the recipient of a portion of the \$848 million from this source designated for basic and major repairs of ports around the country.

"We are extremely happy to learn of this first step in the federal funding process for our commercial port," exclaimed Mayor Uribe. "While there are more levels of approval to be gained nationally for our project, this initial step is huge and puts us in line for accomplishment of our long envisioned port upgrade. We are very grateful for the work by Congresswoman Kirkpatrick and her staff on behalf of the citizens of Douglas, to get our project moved up to Priority #5 among the ports across this country. In April, Mrs. Kirkpatrick and her staff visited to see first-hand the need and they understood with clarity."

Mayor Uribe continued, "After some years of planning, some movement forward, and then going back to the drawing board in developing much-needed improvement for the Douglas Port, this appropriation is evidence of wide stakeholder support from the community, Cochise County,

surrounding cities and the state, up to the highest offices in this land. We are finally sensing our entry into the home stretch of realizing an enhanced and modernized port for Douglas."

A revitalized port of entry will bring not only opportunities for initial employment and revenues due to the construction of such a large federal project, but is anticipated to create spin-off development of warehousing, manufacturing and light industrial uses for the City of Douglas adding jobs for its residents and those in the region.

In anticipation of this project, the City has begun a study area for annexation towards the land designated for the port and has already begun to review the infrastructure needs to be provided by the City, utility partners and Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT) relating to roads. This is in follow-up to the City Council-developed Strategic Action Plan from March 2019 that incorporates the vision of and preparation for future economic activity, such as the Port of Entry, that will strengthen the trade, commerce and economy of the city of Douglas and benefit the residents.

"Modernizing our Douglas Port of Entry is one of my top priorities," Kirkpatrick noted. "I am proud to share that our southern port has jumped on the priority list for funding and I look forward to continue working on this committee until we see a new port complete. Kirkpatrick continued, "More than most districts around the country, this funding bill impacts our district significantly. I am proud to have a voice at the table and push to secure adequate funding for our border and border personnel."

A comprehensive approach to enhancing our Ports of Entry was sought by the Congresswoman and the Appropriations Committee. Included as part of the funding bill is direction to the General Services Administration (GSA) federal agency to research related needs of ports on the southern US border such as border infrastructure staffing and procedures for handling of immigrants, standard practice to process asylum seekers including evaluation of the procedures to ensure migrant protection.

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