**Reps. Cuellar, Gonzales, Escobar, Gonzalez, and Vasquez Introduce the Land Port of Entry (LPOE) Modernization Trust Fund Act**

**Washington, DC –**Today, U.S. Congressman Henry Cuellar (D-TX-28), Congressman Tony Gonzales (R-TX-23), Congresswoman Veronica Escobar (D-TX-16), Congressman Vicente Gonzalez (D-TX-34), and Congressman Gabe Vasquez (D-NM-2) introduced the *Land Port of Entry (LPOE) Modernization Trust Fund Act*. This legislation will establish a trust fund that will be used to (1) construct new ports of entry, (2) expand and improve existing ports of entry, (3) procure technology for inspecting and processing traffic passing through ports of entry, and (4) hire U.S. Customs and Border Protection staff. The Department of Homeland Security (DHS) will also establish the Land Port of Entry Modernization Oversight Board to advise DHS on how to use the trust fund and to review the trust fund's expenditures.

**“While waterway-based ports of entry have long had the benefit of a consistent source of federal resources via the authorization of a similar trust fund, our overburdened land-based ports of entry have struggled. The *LPOE Modernization Trust Fund Act is* needed to properly redistribute much needed resources to LPOE facilities and to ensure the United States’ long-term economic prosperity through international trade,”**said Congressman Cuellar.**“The LPOE Trust Fund will expand, improve, and construct new U.S. ports of entry and support infrastructure to accommodate high volumes of commercial, vehicle, and pedestrian traffic. It will also help critical transit and trade facilities more efficiently complete the inspection and processing of commercial, vehicle, and pedestrian traffic. I applaud my fellow border colleagues for working together in a bipartisan manner to support crucial investments in our land port infrastructure.”**

**“Land ports of entry do not just serve as the frontlines for defending against illicit smuggling of drugs and other contraband—they are essential to facilitating international trade and boosting our nation’s economy. The *Land Port of Entry (LPOE) Modernization Trust Fund Act* will ensure there are resources available solely dedicated to making much-needed improvements to our nation’s land ports of entry infrastructure. I am proud to have worked with my colleagues across the aisle to introduce this important legislation in the U.S. House of Representatives,”**said Congressman Tony Gonzales.

**“The infrastructure at our ports of entry is in dire need of upgrades,”**said Congresswoman Escobar.**“We live in a country where our airports are revered in our communities, offering world-class customer service without sacrificing comfort or security; I want that same sentiment expressed when it comes to our ports. I'm thrilled to join my fellow co-sponsors of this legislation to use funds to make the necessary investments to modernize the technology and infrastructure at our ports.”**

**“South Texas is one of the main arteries for trade, travel, and tourism in the nation, but its ports of entry sorely need to be expanded and updated to accommodate the travel demand and increasing traffic in the region,”**said Congressman Gonzalez.**“I’m proud to partner with Congressman Cuellar to advance legislation that would provide federal funding to adequately staff, update, and create additional ports of entry in the United States. We have made historic investments in our nation’s infrastructure in recent years, and we can’t let our land ports of entry fall by the wayside any longer.”**

**"Modernizing our land ports of entry is essential to strengthening our border communities, enhancing security, and boosting our economy,”**said Congressman Vasquez.**“In New Mexico, investments in ports like the Santa Teresa Port of Entry mean more efficient trade, stronger infrastructure, and better jobs for our communities. This legislation takes a proactive approach to ensure our land ports have the resources they need to improve technology, expand capacity, and keep pace with growing demand. I’m proud to work alongside my colleagues to advance this bipartisan effort that supports both economic growth and border security."**

**“The Border Trade Alliance thanks Rep. Cuellar and this bipartisan group of lawmakers for working to ensure our land border ports of entry are properly resourced to keep pace with today's trade and travel volumes. Adequately staffed ports of entry with modern inspection technology and updated infrastructure are essential to the economic health of the entire country. We strongly support this bill, and we look forward to working with Rep. Cuellar and the cosponsors to see this important legislation through to passage,”**said Britton Mullen, President of the Border Trade Alliance.

**“Trucks move 76% of the freight that crosses our borders with Canada and Mexico.  When supply chain bottlenecks arise, they raise prices for consumers, delay shipments for businesses, cause headaches for truck drivers, and jeopardize American jobs,”**said American Trucking Associations Senior Vice President of Legislative Affairs Henry Hanscom.**“Modernizing our land ports of entry is a key component of building a 21st century transportation network befitting the world’s greatest nation. The trucking industry thanks Reps. Cuellar, Gonzalez, Escobar, Gonzales, and Vasquez for directing attention and investments to these important gateways so that cross-border freight can move safely and efficiently.”**

**“The *Land Port of Entry Modernization Trust Fund Act* is a game-changer for the trucking industry in Texas and across the nation. The Texas Trucking Association applauds longtime friend to the industry and champion of the Texas economy, Congressman Cuellar in his outstanding leadership in championing this legislation and his dedication to modernizing our ports. This will revolutionize cross-border trade, enhance security, and drive economic growth,”**said John D. Esparza, President & CEO of the Texas Trucking Association.