

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

January 9, 2012

Secretary Janet Napolitano
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
310 7th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC, 20528-0150

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We are writing in regard to the Department's decision not to include Seized Property Specialists in U.S. Customs Border Protection's (CBP) enhanced retirement system or an increase in journeyman pay that went into effect in 2010.

As you know, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2008 included an enhanced retirement benefit for CBP Officers that went into effect on July 6, 2008. While Seized Property Specialists are required to meet the same qualification standards and requirements as CBP Officers, including handgun proficiency and self-defense training, they were not covered under the new system.

Additionally, the Department chose not to include Seized Property Specialists in an increase in the GS-12 journeyman pay for Border Patrol Agents, CBP Officers, and Agriculture Specialists that went into effect in October 2010.

We respectfully request the Department conduct an analysis of the costs associated with extending enhanced retirement benefits and the journeyman pay increase to Seized Property Specialists, as well as offer legislative or regulatory recommendations to address these inequities in the CBP workforce.

Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



Bill Owens
Member of Congress



Silvestre Reyes
Member of Congress