




Border Protection

Border Trade Alliance Encouraged by First Meeting with New Customs and Border Protection Commissioner

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BTA part of Commissioner Bersin’s first meeting with private sector stakeholders

SAN ANTONIO – The Border Trade Alliance (BTA) this week was part of new Customs and Border Protection Commissioner Alan Bersin’s first meeting with trade community stakeholders in Washington, D.C.

BTA President Nelson Balido, who participated in the roundtable with BTA Chair Kathy Neal, walked away impressed from the exchange with the new CBP commissioner.

“We want to thank Commissioner Bersin for reaching out to the Border Trade Alliance for what proved to be a healthy dialogue on the challenges facing the U.S.-Canada and U.S.-Mexico border,” Balido said. “While BTA takes seriously its role as the cross-border trade community’s voice before CBP, this first meeting left us very encouraged that the new commissioner is committed to working with BTA and the rest of the trade community to find solutions to the tough issues facing our borders.”

Balido said he was heartened to hear from the commissioner his desire to integrate the pursuit of trade facilitation and security.

“BTA was pleased to hear that this commissioner believes security and trade promotion must go hand in hand,” Balido said. “But the private sector will be holding CBP accountable. Staffing levels at the land border ports of entry are still woefully inadequate, and outmoded border infrastructure is hindering trade throughput.”

The idea of pursuing “21st century border” strategy was discussed at the meeting, Balido said.

“The BTA was happy to hear that the commissioner shares our organization’s desire for more modernized border processes, such as account-based management and single entry-exit transactions,” Balido said. “We look forward to working with CBP and Commissioner Bersin to foster a border environment that is secure while being friendly to trade and travel.”


About the Border Trade Alliance Since 1986, the BTA has served as a grassroots, non-profit organization that provides a forum for discussion and advocacy on issues pertaining to the environment, border development, quality of life and trade in the Americas. A network of public and private sector representatives from the United States, Mexico and Canada, BTA’s core values include a commitment to improving the quality of life of border communities through trade and commerce.

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