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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

March 7, 2016

VIA ELECTRONIC TRANSMISSION

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Johnson:

On March 4, 2016, multiple news outlets reported that Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman entered the United States twice in late 2015.¹ In an interview with Guzman’s daughter, Rosa Isela Guzman Ortiz, it was revealed that Guzman was able to evade the elaborate manhunt by both the Mexican and U.S. authorities and enter the United States on two separate occasions. Apparently, Ms. Guzman Ortiz reported that Guzman came to her residence in southern California to see the home that he had purchased for her and her children. If true, the fact that Guzman entered the United States illegally is extremely concerning.

For a more thorough understanding of the situation, please answer the following questions no later than March 21, 2016.

1. Does the Department have any record of Guzman’s alleged travel to the United States? If so, please elaborate on the dates he traveled, the border checkpoints he came through, and what if any, interaction he had with Customs and Border Protection (CBP) agents.

¹ The Guardian: *El Chapo Entered US Twice While On The Run After Prison Break, Daughter Claims*, also available at, <http://www.theguardian.com/world/2016/mar/04/el-chapo-entered-us-california-manhunt-prison-break-daughter-says>

2. Did DHS have any prior knowledge of Guzman entering the U.S. before last week's press reports? Please explain.
3. If the statements by Ms. Guzman Ortiz are true and your Department is aware of the facts surrounding "El Chapo" Guzman's entry, what steps has your Department taken to ensure instances such as this are prevented in the future?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. Should you have any questions, please contact Katherine Nikas of my Committee staff at (202) 224-5225.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Grassley
Chairman
Senate Committee on the Judiciary

cc:

The Honorable Patrick Leahy
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on the Judiciary