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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6275

KOLAN L. DAVIS, *Chief Counsel and Staff Director*
KRISTINE J. LUCIUS, *Democratic Chief Counsel and Staff Director*

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Jeh Johnson
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

The Honorable James B. Comey
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Secretary Johnson and Director Comey:

In March of 2016, multiple new outlets reported that Joaquin “El Chapo” Guzman entered the United States twice in late 2015 to allegedly see his daughter in Southern California.¹ Apparently, 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. When asked about these news allegations², U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) responded that it had “no information that substantiates the claims in those news reports.”

Yesterday, the Senate Committee on Finance held a hearing entitled, “Oversight of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency,” during which I asked Commissioner Kerlikowske yet again if the federal government had any knowledge that “El Chapo” entered the United States.³ Although the Commissioner promised that CBP “looked into that very thoroughly” he was unable to assure the Committee that it thoroughly vetted the allegation or possibility that El Chapo entered the country undetected. Further, Commissioner Kerlikowske admitted that he was unsure whether “El Chapo’s” daughter had even been interviewed by authorities during the course of the investigation.

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 2016-03-07 letter from Chairman Grassley to Secretary Johnson, available at [https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-0307%20CEG%20to%20DHS%20\(EI%20Chapo%20crossing%20the%20US%20Border\).pdf](https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/imo/media/doc/2016-0307%20CEG%20to%20DHS%20(EI%20Chapo%20crossing%20the%20US%20Border).pdf)

³ *Oversight of U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agency: Hearing Before the S. Comm. on Finance*, 114th Cong. (2016), available at <http://www.finance.senate.gov/hearings/oversight-of-the-us-customs-and-border-protection-agency>

Accordingly, please respond as to whether anyone in your department has interviewed Rosa Isela Guzman Ortiz and provide any information relating to interviews or investigations conducted by Homeland Security Investigations or the Federal Bureau of Investigation regarding this incident no later than May 26, 2016.

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