



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
The Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

July 15, 2020

His Excellency
Alejandro Giammattei
President of Guatemala
Guatemala City

Dear Mr. President:

I was pleased to have been able to attend your inauguration in January. I look forward to continuing to work with your administration in the future for the benefit of both of our countries.

A matter has come to my attention that I would like to address with you. I am writing to express my concern over delays in commencing new cargo screening operations at the Port of Santo Tomas de Castilla. It was my understanding that S2 Global should have begun operations at the Port earlier this year. I was dismayed to learn that it had not.

S2 Global is a U.S. company known for its competitiveness and reliability and has informed me that it is dedicated to the success of the operations at the Port of Santo Tomas. It has already invested approximately \$7 million USD in cargo scanning systems, radiation portal monitors, scanning site construction, and a state-of-the-art remote image analysis center in Guatemala City.

This project, when it is permitted to commence, would allow U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) authorities to receive and inspect X-ray images of U.S.-bound cargo containers from participating ports in Guatemala. CBP would be able to pre-clear inbound cargo to the port of Gulfport, Mississippi, from Guatemala and would allow many of these containers to depart the port almost immediately upon arrival. This would not only decrease the time it takes to move goods between our two countries and, thus, decrease costs, but it would also improve safety, increase security, and decrease contraband.

I know that Guatemala, especially given these trying economic times, is eager to encourage foreign investment. I believe that it is important for Guatemala to send a signal to the business community that it welcomes investment and that it is a reliable and trustworthy partner to investors.

My staff and I are closely monitoring this situation. I understand that this issue is currently before the Guatemalan Constitutional Court. As we await the Court's ruling, please keep my staff and me informed of any developments in this matter. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wilbur Ross". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Wilbur Ross