



March 29, 2019

Hon. Lucille Roybal-Allard
Chairwoman
Homeland Security Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Hon. Chuck Fleischmann
Ranking Member
Homeland Security Subcommittee
House Appropriations Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Roybal-Allard and Ranking Member Fleischmann:

The Fiber Optic Sensing Association (FOSA) appreciates your past support and funding for the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Linear Ground Detection System (LGDS) program, which enables fiber optic sensors to be placed along the border in support of stronger, more effective security measures.

FOSA represents twenty companies in the fiber optic detection industry and is dedicated to educating the public, industry and the government on the benefits of this technology across many platforms. We write to emphasize the multiple benefits that this technology can provide to secure the border from illegal entries and the trafficking of drugs and other illegal goods.

FOSA members include Adelos Inc., AFL, AP Sensing, Asymmetric Technologies, Corning, Ditch Witch, Dura-Line, Fiber Optic Pipeline Solutions, Fotech Solutions, Frauscher Sensor Technology USA, Hifi Engineering, Network Integrity Systems, NKT Photonics, OFS, Omnisens, OptaSense, OZ Optics, Prysmian Group, Skyview Construction and Smartpipe Technologies.

As you consider both appropriations levels and potential authorization actions for FY 2020, we urge you to build upon the positive results from the LGDS program to take full advantage of the opportunities that smart technologies such as fiber optic sensing have in securing the border in a cost-effective manner. Historically, Congress has maintained funding for the LGDS program as it has evolved from the Fiber Optic Detection System (FODS) in FY19. The LGDS program was funded at \$16 million in the FY18 Agreement as the agency pursued opportunities to expand the program and integrate systems into border security.

Although CBP did not fund the LGDS program in the FY19 President's Budget request, Congress added \$1 million in funding to ensure that the LGDS program continued. This additional funding was included in the FY19 Conference Agreement and signed into law earlier this year.

Fiber Optic Sensing Association (FOSA)

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Continued Congressional support for LGDS is critical to long-term safety and security at the most critical areas along the United States southern and northern borders. LGDS complements and enhances other security measures.

Fiber optic sensing is a cost-effective monitoring solution that has been deployed successfully on the United States Southern border, including the detection of surface activity and sub-surface tunnels. The detection data this innovative technology generates from buried fiber optic cable acting as a sensor can provide situational awareness to CBP and Border Patrol personnel while developing a pattern of life along the border to assist with border security decision-making.

These fiber optics systems push data to other technology components such as cameras, radar or ground patrol with early warning of activity as part of a multi-layered defense-in-depth approach to border management. This technology is deployed on multiple other international borders around the world – to provide both surface and sub-surface detection of activity.

FOSA members are subject-matter experts with a unique understanding of these innovative technologies and are prepared to answer questions that you and your staff members may have related to tactical infrastructure and border security systems. We appreciate your continued support for technology and its key role in providing improved border security capability.

Sincerely,

J.J. Williams

John Williams
Chairman
Fiber Optic Sensing Association

CC: Hon. Nita Lowey, Chairwoman, House Appropriations Committee
Hon. Kay Granger, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Committee