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| |  |  | | --- | --- | | **For Immediate Release:** | **Contact:** [Neal A. Patel](mailto:neal_patel@heller.senate.gov) | | December 9, 2016 | 202-224-6244 |   **Heller Initiative to Improve Staffing and Infrastructure at International Airports Passes Senate**  **(Washington, DC)** – Today the Senate unanimously passed the *Cross-Border Trade Enhancement Act,* H.R.875, bipartisan legislation that encourages public-private partnerships to boost staffing and make infrastructure improvements at U.S. ports of entry without adding to the national deficit. This legislation, which passed the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday December 6, is a modified version of [S.461](http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/pressreleases?ID=444EA441-4821-4EBA-B92D-58A53AD8C127) that passed the Senate last week.  **“Providing ports of entry, like the Reno-Tahoe International Airport, the tools to form public-private partnerships that create efficiencies when processing international passengers boosts tourism and improves national security. I’m very appreciative of Majority Whip John Cornyn’s effort to team with the Nevada delegation to get this important tourism priority passed. We have been working on this issue for years, and I hope it results in attracting additional international service to the Reno-Tahoe region,”** said Senator Dean Heller.  **Background:**   |  | | --- | | The Nevada Congressional delegation has worked for years to add additional customs staff to the Reno-Tahoe International Airport. H.R.875 would give airports another tool to increase staffing and improve operations. Decreasing passenger processing time will help airports like the Reno-Tahoe International Airport attract additional international airlines and passengers. Specifically, it would allow airports participating in the Port of Entry Partnership Pilot Program, known as the Donor 559 program, to privately finance:   * Salaries and expenses of up to five additional CBP officers; * Salaries and expenses of CBP employees that support officers in performing law enforcement functions; * Costs related to the temporary placement or permanent relocation of officers; and costs incurred by CBP to pay existing officers overtime. |   ###  [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_fb.png](http://www.facebook.com/pages/US-Senator-Dean-Heller/325751330177) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_tw.png](http://twitter.com/SenDeanHeller) [http://www.heller.senate.gov/public/vendor/_skins/heller/images/newsletter/icon_yt.png](http://www.youtube.com/user/SenDeanHeller) |