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Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) spent the day today along the US-Mexican border near Tucson, Arizona, to meet with US Customs and Border Patrol officials and observe efforts to secure the US border. Braley's trip included a tour of the border, border crossings, and ports of entry; meetings with Customs ...

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Braley Spends the Day Along Arizona-Mexico Border to Meet with Border Patrol Agents and Officials

Washington, Mar 25 - Rep. Bruce Braley (D-Iowa) spent the day today along the US-Mexican border near Tucson, Arizona, to meet with US Customs and Border Patrol officials and observe efforts to secure the US border.

Braley's trip included a tour of the border, border crossings, and ports of entry; meetings with Customs and Border Patrol officials and command; and briefings on the technology, infrastructure, and personnel being used to patrol the border.

"I took this trip because I wanted to see for myself what the border patrol does on a daily basis as they work to secure our border," Braley said. "I've taken one thing away from my conversations today, it's that the problem of securing is bigger than just the issue of illegal immigration. It's something that encompasses food safety, highway safety, the fight against meth and other illegal drugs, and our economy.

"This has been an extremely insightful trip. I've had conversations with dozens of border patrol agents and officials, and I've heard all about what's working and what isn't in their efforts to secure our border. I'll be using the lessons and the feedback I've gotten today to work for better and more effective border security policies."

Braley's trip was sponsored by the US Customs and Border Protection agency. Braley joined two other Representatives on the trip: Reps. Michael Arcuri (D-NY) and John Hall (D-NY).

Braley arrived in Tucson last night and will return to Iowa tomorrow morning. His itinerary in Arizona follows (all times local Arizona time):

7:00am	Travel from Tucson to Nogales, AZ
8:00am	Briefing and tour of Nogales Port of Entry
10:30am	Travel time
11:00am	Lunch
12:00pm	Briefing and tour of Nogales Border Patrol Station (including communications and camera room, evidence vault, and processing area)
1:15pm	Border Tour in Nogales area (including Remote Video Surveillance System)
2:30pm	Travel time
3:00pm	Briefing and tour of Interstate 19 Border Patrol checkpoint
3:30pm	Travel time
4:30pm	Briefing and tour of Border Patrol camera tower along US-Mexico border

5:00pm	Travel time
6:00pm	Briefing and tour of operations center in Tucson area headquarters
7:00pm	Travel time
7:30pm	Dinner and debrief