



# Homeland Security

December 16, 2025

Dr. Kim Lamberty  
Quixote Center  
P.O. Box 1950  
Greenbelt, MD 20768

Dear Dr. Lamberty:

Thank you for your August 26, 2025 letter to the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) regarding your concern about the flow of illicit weapons from the United States to Haiti.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) plays a critical role in screening international shipments departing the United States, as part of its broader mission to enforce U.S. laws and protect the homeland, national security, economic interests, and public safety. CBP works closely with interagency partners, including Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) and U.S. Department of Justice's Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, to enforce export laws and ensure that goods leaving the United States comply with export control regulations, embargoes, and licensing requirements. CBP leverages law enforcement databases and intelligence-driven targeting to collect, screen, and analyze export data, and proactively identify and interdict high-risk shipments to prevent the illegal export of firearms, ammunition, and other controlled items heading to conflict zones.

At the Miami International Airport and Miami Seaport, CBP employs a multifaceted outbound enforcement approach to detect and deter the illegal export of weapons. In all modes of travel, CBP's multifaceted approach includes utilization of actionable intelligence, technology, and risk-based targeting to identify high-risk cargo shipments for examination prior to their departure from the United States. One of CBP's enforcement initiatives is to require that a complete manifest be on file prior to Vessel Clearance approval for vessels specifically bound for Haiti, unlike vessels destined to other countries. This ensures proper documentation of commodities and goods being exported to Haiti, allowing CBP to specifically target individuals or entities attempting to skirt the law by exporting illegal products or goods.

Section 343(a) of the Trade Act of 2002 requires CBP to receive information from the carrier about cargo before it enters or exits the United States by way of a CBP-approved electronic data system. CBP will continue to seek ways to strengthen its risk assessment capabilities and strengthen enforcement actions, including supporting ongoing and future criminal investigations.

One of the key resources CBP employs in outbound enforcement is CBP's Anti-Terrorism and Contraband Enforcement Team, which is a special unit of CBP's officers

responsible for both inbound and outbound enforcement operations at the Miami Airport and along the Miami River. The Anti-Terrorism and Contraband Enforcement Team balances and adjusts its workload and operational focus based on intelligence, risk and the current threat posture.

The Miami River has three terminals that service bulk cargo to Haiti and one terminal that handles containerized cargo. In 2022, the Anti-Terrorism and Contraband Enforcement Team increased inspections of outbound cargo to Haiti and the Dominican Republic to specifically address the threat of prohibited goods such as weapons and ammunition. These resource-intensive inspections are now part of a sustained enforcement strategy to combat transnational criminal organizations engaged in weapons smuggling.

The Anti-Terrorism and Contraband Enforcement Team also conducts outreach and inspections at consolidator facilities and works in close coordination with other law enforcement partners. CBP will continue to collaborate with state, local and international law enforcement, to disrupt and dismantle criminal operations responsible for trafficking weapons.

Under the Trump Administration, DHS has made clear that stemming the flow of weapons fueling gang violence in Haiti is both a homeland security and national security priority. Criminal organizations operating in the Caribbean threaten regional stability and American communities through narcotics, firearms, and human smuggling networks. DHS and CBP use every available authority and resource to enforce U.S. laws aggressively, to disrupt cartel-linked trafficking pipelines, and to safeguard the homeland.

Representative Meek's bill, H.R. 2693, the "Haiti Criminal Collusion Transparency Act," which you urge the Department to support passage of, was introduced on April 4, 2025, passed the House on September 2, 2025, and was received in the Senate and referred to the U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations on September 3, 2025. If asked by Congress, DHS would be happy to work with Congressional Staff to provide technical drafting assistance on the legislation or to provide DHS's views on the legislation consistent with President Trump's Administration.

Please share this response with your cosigners. Should you wish to discuss this matter further, please do not hesitate to contact the DHS Private Sector Office at [PrivatesectorOPE@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:PrivatesectorOPE@hq.dhs.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kristi Noem".

Kristi Noem  
Secretary of Homeland Security