

MARIO DIAZ-BALART

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November 7, 2016

Michael Botticelli
Director, White House Office of National Drug Control Policy
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington D.C. 20500

Dear Director Botticelli,

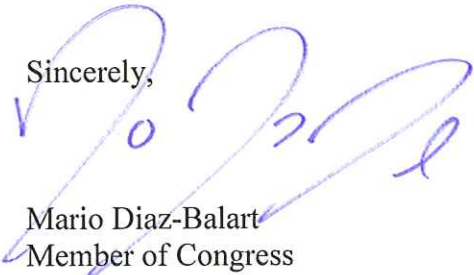
I am writing this letter in support of the proposal to designate Collier County Florida as a High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA).

The South Florida HIDTA encompasses Broward, Dade, and Monroe Counties. Collier County borders these counties. Additionally, Interstate 75 and State Road 90/US 41 connect many areas of the South Florida HIDTA to Collier County on a common drug transportation route. On the Southern end of Florida's Gulf Coast, the Collier County coast line extends in excess of 57 miles of exposed border of the United States. I am told that a significant number of drug cases in Collier County have a nexus back to investigations being worked by several of the already established South Florida HIDTA Initiatives. These investigations tend to be complex and costly.

It is my understanding that partnerships with other local, state, and federal agencies already exist to address many of these problems but the designation as a HIDTA initiative under the South Florida HIDTA would substantially enhance efforts to combat the serious drug-related issues in our community. I am told that no single agency has sufficient resources to combat the drug crimes in the area and that collaboration among local, state, and federal agencies, coupled with the assistance of the South Florida HIDTA, will further efforts in the region.

I have been encouraged by the efforts of the South Florida HIDTA. I respectfully urge, within all applicable rules and regulations, the full and fair consideration of Collier County's application to be designated as a HIDTA, and would appreciate a response on this matter. Thank you in advance, and I look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,



Mario Diaz-Balart
Member of Congress