**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Secretary of State Michael Pompeo by
Senator Jacky Rosen (#1)
Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
June 11, 2019**

**Question:**

I represent Nevada, where our tourism industry brings more than forty million visitors into the state each year from all around the world.  Our economy depends on it.  The revenue that tourism brings in helps fund our schools, infrastructure, and police and fire departments. And we’re only 200 miles from the U.S. Mexico border, relatively close to one of the largest entry points on the border at Tijuana. From there, illicit drugs travel easily up the I-15 corridor from Mexico, through San Diego and then California's inland empire until it reaches Las Vegas. According to a 2019 threat assessment by state law enforcement, drug trafficking threats in Nevada are heavily influenced by the organizations and trafficking patterns that operate in the southwest border region. When you combine that with our tourism industry -- which relies on bringing people from abroad into our cities, national parks, hotels, and convention centers, and on trucking in goods to power our economy from the Las Vegas Strip to downtown Reno -- our law enforcement’s strategy for reducing drug crime has to be much different than in many other American **communities. What are the challenges of reducing the flow of drugs across the nearby border while maintaining the trade and tourism that’s so important to my state and others?**

**Answer:**

I share your appreciation for the complexities of our shared border with Mexico. More effective border security that stops drugs and other illicit goods, but that also streamlines lawful trade and travel, is a priority for this administration. One of our key challenges is to harness emerging technologies without adding burdensome layers for low-risk travelers and traffic. In partnership with the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Mexican government, I can assure you that my team is hard at work to address this and other challenges.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Secretary of State Michael Pompeo by
Senator Jacky Rosen (#2)
Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
June 11, 2019**

**Question:**

I represent Nevada, where our tourism industry brings more than forty million visitors into the state each year from all around the world.  Our economy depends on it.  The revenue that tourism brings in helps fund our schools, infrastructure, and police and fire departments. And we’re only 200 miles from the U.S. Mexico border, relatively close to one of the largest entry points on the border at Tijuana. From there, illicit drugs travel easily up the I-15 corridor from Mexico, through San Diego and then California's inland empire until it reaches Las Vegas. According to a 2019 threat assessment by state law enforcement, drug trafficking threats in Nevada are heavily influenced by the organizations and trafficking patterns that operate in the southwest border region. When you combine that with our tourism industry -- which relies on bringing people from abroad into our cities, national parks, hotels, and convention centers, and on trucking in goods to power our economy from the Las Vegas Strip to downtown Reno -- our law enforcement’s strategy for reducing drug crime has to be much different than in many other American communities. **Similarly, how should the U.S. maintain its trade and tourism relationship with China while robustly addressing the problem of illegal fentanyl entering the U.S. from that country?**

**Answer:**

Counternarcotics cooperation is an area of ongoing engagement with China. A combination of diplomatic engagement at every level, from the President to technical experts, and the development of partnerships between U.S. and Chinese law enforcement agencies contributed to China’s implementation of class scheduling of all fentanyl-like substances on May 1. We clearly need more from China, and the Department of State and interagency partners continue to work with Chinese counterparts on rigorous implementation and follow-through. Our counternarcotics engagement with China is not directly related to the U.S. trade and tourism industry, as Chinese fentanyl often transits in packages and via third countries.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Secretary of State Michael Pompeo by
Senator Jacky Rosen (#3)
Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
June 11, 2019**

**Question:**

Nevada is one of several states in the U.S. to have legalized marijuana. According to a recent report, Border Patrol data shows that the amount of marijuana crossing the border has decreased continuously since 2014. **Do you believe that legalized marijuana in U.S. states, including marijuana used for medical purposes have reduced the market for marijuana trafficked from Mexico, Latin America, and elsewhere? Would you agree that marijuana produced in the U.S., regulated by U.S. states, and purchased in the U.S. is safer than marijuana illegally trafficked from another country and potentially laced with harmful substances**?

**Answer:**

Because U.S. domestic drug consumption and production trends are outside the jurisdiction of the Department of State, I refer you to the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and the Department of Health and Human Services.

**Questions for the Record Submitted to
Secretary of State Michael Pompeo by
Senator Jacky Rosen (#4)
Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control
June 11, 2019**

**Question:**

In addition to serving on this panel, I am also a member of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and we have heard testimony this year about the importance of foreign aid assistance to the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Honduras, and Guatemala. **Can you describe successes that the U.S. Government has had in reducing drug trafficking in those countries, and tell us what challenges remain?  Do you agree that increasing economic opportunity and reducing lawlessness are key components in a strategy to reduce drug trafficking from this region?**

**Answer:**

In recent months, the Department of State supported units in El Salvador and Guatemala. These units, trained and mentored by the Department and interagency partners, have seized record amounts of cocaine that was bound for the United States. Guatemala, Honduras, and El Salvador have increased counternarcotics efforts, including record drug seizures, but lack key components of successful programs including deep-water assets, strong intelligence sharing, well-trained forces, land-interdiction capabilities, and robust operational budgets. I agree that increasing economic opportunity and reducing lawlessness are key components in a strategy to reduce drug trafficking from the Northern Triangle. Consequently, the Department continues to press the Northern Triangle governments to take further action to improve prosperity, governance, and security.