TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

March 10, 2011

TODD STAPLES
COMMISSIONER

The Honorable Jose Rodriguez
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068
Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

VIA INTRA-AGENCY DELIVERY

Dear Senator Rodriguez:

I appreciate the concern expressed in your letter of March 9, 2011, about the responses posted on our new website, www.protectyourtexasborder.com, designed to highlight the crimes against our Texas farmers and ranchers. I absolutely and wholeheartedly condemn any responses that, as you state in your letter, "promote violence and hate."

You also state in your letter, "allowing the spread of *violent messages* is simply unacceptable…" On this you and I agree. Furthermore, I cannot allow—and sincerely hope you would join me in also condemning—the spread of *violent attacks* against our farmers and ranchers.

You are correct that our citizens are at risk, but surely we agree the danger is truly from physical crimes being perpetrated against American citizens, which this website documents in an effort to secure greater federal resources. Attached is a photograph of a ranch truck that was riddled by bullets just this past weekend while traveling on private property in South Texas. The peril is clear and present.

Our border patrol and state and local law enforcement are doing a tremendous job, but as long as Americans are being terrorized by drug cartel members undermining the sovereignty of our country, I must maintain a strong and steady call for increased federal presence.

I invite you to join me in requesting an audience with officials in the President's administration who have the authority to direct the resources we need our way.

Thank you for your service to Texas.

Sincerely yours,

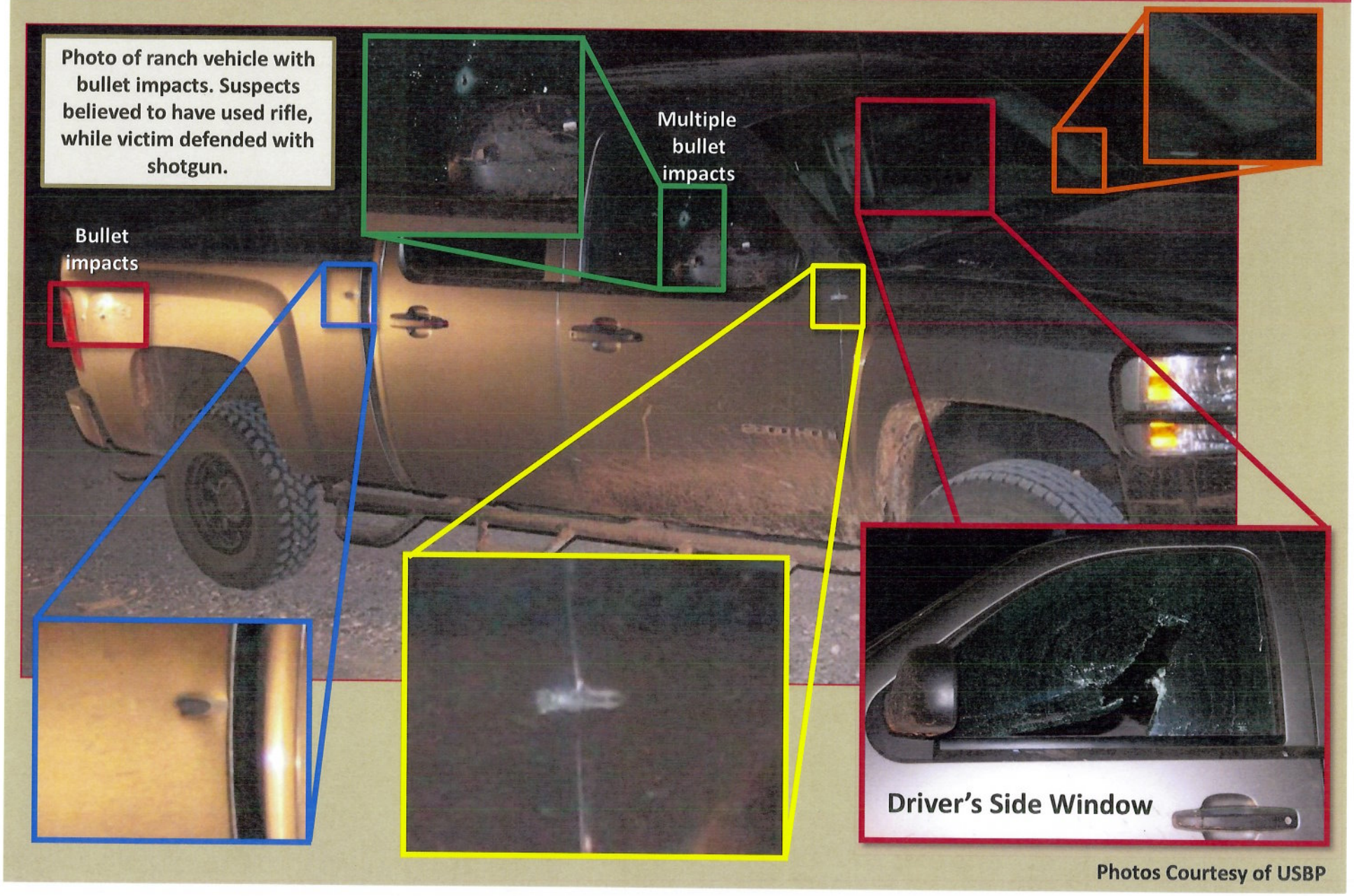
Todd Staples

Enclosure

P.O. Box 12847 Austin, Texas 78711 (512) 463-7476 Fax: (888) 223-8861
www.TexasAgriculture.gov

06 MAR 2011 – Rancher Engaged by DTO Members

Photos of Victim's Vehicle



Photos Courtesy of USBP