



**U.S. Customs and
Border Protection**

JAN 04 2017

Mr. Bobby Magill
President
Society of Environmental Journalists
P.O. Box 2492
Jenkintown, PA 19046

Dear Mr. Magill:

Thank you for your December 13, 2016 letter. Secretary Johnson has asked that I respond on his behalf.

All persons, baggage, and other merchandise arriving in or leaving the United States are subject to inspection and search by CBP officers. Various laws, including 8 U.S.C. § 1357 and 19 U.S.C. §§ 482, 1581, 1582, authorize such searches. As part of the inspection process, CBP officers must verify the identity of persons, determine the admissibility of travelers, and look for possible terrorists, terrorist weapons, controlled substances, and a wide variety of other prohibited and restricted items. Occasionally, CBP may inconvenience law-abiding persons in our efforts to detect, deter, and mitigate threats to our homeland caused by individuals involved in illicit activities. We rely on the patience, cooperation, and understanding of travelers to ensure the effective protection of our borders.

CBP always strives to maintain the utmost respect and professionalism towards the traveling public when CBP officers conduct inspections required under law to secure our Nation and facilitate legitimate trade and travel. With regard to Mr. Ou's experience, CBP is unable to respond at this time due to the Privacy Act of 1974, 5 U.S.C. 552a (applicable to U.S. persons as defined by the Act) and Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) policy, which administratively extends certain Privacy Act protections to non-U.S. persons with respect to data DHS collects. As a third-party requester, you are required to submit to CBP written authorization from Mr. Ou giving his consent for you to receive this information on his behalf.

Mr. Bobby Magill

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A Privacy Release Form can be accessed at the following web address:

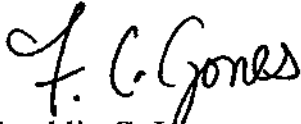
<https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/dhs-form-590.pdf>

The Privacy Release Form can be mailed to the following address:

Privacy and Diversity Office
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20229

Thank you again for your interest in this important issue. Should you wish to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Franklin C. Jones
Privacy and Diversity Office