



February 10, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Request to Suspend Trusted Traveler Program Decision

Dear Acting-Secretary Wolf:

The Buffalo Niagara Partnership is the area's chamber of commerce and privately-funded economic development organization. Our members, who employ more than a quarter of a million people in the region, rely on a healthy and efficient cross-border relationship with Canada to keep our shared economy moving forward. On behalf of the Partnership, I ask the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to suspend its decision to remove New York State from the Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler Programs (Global Entry, FAST, SENTRI, and NEXUS) until a solution can be reached between the federal government and New York State.

Buffalo Niagara is an international gateway to a robust and vital cross border economy. Specifically, 40 percent of trucks crossing the Peace Bridge rely on the FAST Program and 25 percent of cars use NEXUS, with that percentage growing during the summer tourism season. Our bi-national region encompasses a population of over eight million people and generates over \$400 billion in gross domestic product, with more than 680,000 jobs in New York State directly dependent on trade and investment with Canada. With a variety of industries contributing to this growth, the economic relationship between Canada and the United States is only projected to grow.

The recent DHS announcement jeopardizes Buffalo Niagara's job-creating momentum, causing serious concern amongst our members, taking time away from their critical day to day operations. A prolonged removal, and the unexplained ramifications for both truck freight travel and aviation, will undoubtedly cost time, money and jobs that the local economy simply cannot afford.

The Partnership fully supports safe international border crossings and understands this issue to be complex and challenging. Respectfully, we request that DHS suspend its

decision until a solution without such serious economic ramifications can be reached with New York State.

Sincerely,



Dottie Gallagher
President & CEO

Cc: The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo, New York State Governor
The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, United States Senator
The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand, United States Senator
The Honorable Brian D. Higgins, Member of Congress
The Honorable Tom W. Reed, Member of Congress