



August 13, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear President Biden and Secretary Mayorkas:

We are writing to advise you against renewing the ban on non-essential border crossings by Canadian travelers. Extending the border closure beyond August 21 would lack scientific justification and would further exacerbate the economic and cultural damage done by the closure.

From Alaska to Maine, our Northern Border communities have felt the disastrous consequences of this policy. Since March 2020, cross-border families have been kept apart. Tourism and retail businesses in both the U.S. and Canada have suffered due to the decrease of foot traffic in border communities. Additionally, the decline in sales to foreign customers has deprived local governments of critical sales tax revenue at a time when they need it most.

The Canadian government recognized that the continued border closure was unnecessary and damaging, which is why Canada decided it will welcome vaccinated,

non-essential American travelers beginning August 9. While Canada's border policy will still be quite restrictive, Canada is at least attempting to address this problem. However, the U.S. has not offered Canadian travelers the same courtesy.

To correct this problem and stimulate the economies of our border communities, we urge your administration to:

- Allow Federal Register Doc. 2021-15573, which extended the U.S. border closure through August 21, to expire without renewal.
- At a minimum, offer vaccinated, non-essential Canadian travelers reciprocal access through U.S. land and sea points-of-entry beginning August 21.
- Develop and publicize a bilateral plan with the Canadian government to fully reopen the border.

Thank you for your attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Buffalo Niagara Partnership (New York)
Detroit Regional Chamber (Michigan)
Duluth Area Chamber of Commerce (Minnesota)
Greater Green Bay Chamber (Wisconsin)
Lake Champlain Chamber (Vermont)
North Country Chamber of Commerce (New York)