

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 30, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write concerning the continued restrictions at land ports of entry (LPOE) between both the United States and Canada. We appreciate the need to limit nonessential travel into the United States and Canada in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and protect the populations of our respective nations. However, just as individual states, provinces, and territories have taken actions to address their unique situations, we believe that border restrictions should reflect the actual, localized risk on both sides of the border.

At this time, the risks of significant cross-border transmission in numerous border jurisdictions appear to be low. Just as many American states have loosened restrictions on certain activities and interstate travel, an absolute restriction on non-essential travel across the entire U.S.-Canada border should be reevaluated. As states and localities in the interiors of our nations continue to reopen, we are concerned that border communities that have historically depended on day-to-day cross-border commerce will be left behind, even as their risk of COVID-19 transmission appears to remain low.

The protracted closure of the world's longest international land border to all but essential travel has put immense strain on the communities that straddle the border. Many people that reside along our shared border with Canada are part of remote, rural communities which rely on one another for essential supplies and services. Family members and loved ones frequently live on opposite sides of the border, creating tight-knit, cross-border communities. This isolation will risks only growing as the fall and winter seasons approach if current border restrictions remain in place.

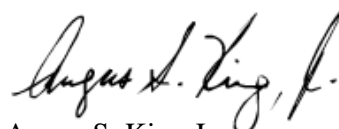
Accordingly, we ask that your administration ease the ongoing restrictions on non-essential travel, or alternatively categorize additional types of cross-border travel as essential, which we believe will recognize the reality of the health risks along much of the border while also help support our border communities as we continue the global fight against the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you for your attention to this issue.

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Angus S. King Jr.
United States Senator



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator