



Our Mission is to Enrich, Lead and Foster the San Ysidro Business Community and our Bi-National Region.

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June 10, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Re: TERMINATION OF CROSS-BORDER TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS ON OR BEFORE JUNE 22, 2020

Dear Secretary Wolf,

Regardless of measures across the United States to "recover" or "re-open" from the COVID-19 crisis, border communities from San Ysidro, CA to Brownsville, TX cannot – and will not – begin to recover without the restrictions at our land ports of entry (POE) being terminated. We are asking – praying – the current restrictions on non-essential travel between the U.S., Mexico and Canada expire on or before June 22, 2020.

The San Ysidro Chamber of Commerce represents 736 businesses within a 2-mile radius of the World's busiest Land POE. We are truly a binational region. 45% of our 6,000 employees are lawful US employees, living in the community of Tijuana. San Ysidro historically provides for \$2 million in DAILY sales. 95% of those sales on San Ysidro Blvd are made by those crossing the border from Mexico. Border restrictions to essential travel have decreased our border crossing by 70%. Our community, alone, is losing over \$1.8M every day that border restrictions are in place.

Mexican officials announced, on June 1, 2020, that more than 5,000 companies have implemented protocols that would allow them to reopen critical operations. As California and Mexico lift restrictions based on improved health results, our local, county and state officials have implemented policy, practices and procedures to keep our businesses, employees and community safe in the face of infected visitors. We ask for the opportunity to enact these policies while re-establishing our livelihood.

Restricting daily travelers between our countries, who invest in binational commerce through the goods and services they acquire, is leaving border communities economically paralyzed.

The critical action of lifting border restrictions will allow for businesses to thrive and ensure the security of what is left of our border's economic vibrancy.

We thank you, in advance, for your time, leadership and cooperation in this regard. We look forward to your positive response to how Homeland Security can help save our livelihood.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Jason M-B Wells
Executive Director



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Cc: Andrea R. Ramirez, Ph.D., Special Assistant to the President and Director of Hispanic Engagement, White House Office of Public Liaison
Jennifer Korn, Deputy Assistant to the President, White House
Victor De Leon, Chief, Intergovernmental Affairs, Office of DHS Commissioner
Pete Flores, Director OFO San Diego, DHS, US CBP
US Senator Dianne Feinstein
US Senator Kamala Harris
CA Governor Gavin Newsom