



July 26, 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 request the immediate relaxation of restrictions on non-essential border crossings by Canadian travelers. Your recent decision to extend the border closure for another month lacks scientific justification and further exacerbates the economic and cultural damage done by the closure.

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 border communities, we urge your administration to:

- Revoke [Federal Register Doc. 2021-15573](#), which extended the U.S. border closure through August 21.
- Offer vaccinated, non-essential Canadian travelers reciprocal access through U.S. land and sea points-of-entry no later than August 9.
- 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,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dottie Gallagher".

Dottie Gallagher
President & CEO
Buffalo Niagara Partnership

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Garry Douglas".

Garry Douglas
President & CEO
North Country Chamber of Commerce