

United States Senate

March 10, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

I write in regards to the ongoing restriction of non-essential travel at the U.S.-Canada border. While the efforts initially taken were critical to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, circumstances have drastically changed and now is the time to work with your Canadian counterparts to reconsider the present situation and prioritize re-opening the northern border with appropriate health and safety protocols.

As we approach the one year anniversary of these border restrictions, we have seen remarkable progress in fighting the pandemic. We have seen the creation of three FDA-approved COVID-19 vaccines – a public health achievement unparalleled in modern history. We invested billions of dollars in testing and tracing, and took extraordinary measures to stem the spread of the virus. We are now seeing more than 2 million vaccinations a day and the number of new cases near their lowest levels in months. As we approach the end of winter, ensuring that the movement of people and goods across the U.S.-Canada border can efficiently and safely occur is critically important for Montana's economy. This is particularly true for Montanans dependent on tourism and agriculture, the main drivers of our economy and the sectors that rely most heavily on cross-border access. I urge you to quickly and safely come to an agreement with Canada to reopen the northern border.

Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator