

United States Senate  
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 20, 2020

President Donald J. Trump  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. President,

As Senators representing states along the U.S.-Canadian border, we write to request that you carefully consider the implications of, and necessary exemptions to, the existing travel restrictions across the United States' border with Canada and any additional closures that may occur in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. We also ask that you provide the appropriate exemptions to any domestic quarantines mandated by federal, state or local officials to ensure public health and safety. While protecting public health must be our top consideration, it is critical that businesses Americans rely on to provide medical supplies and other essential goods do not see their supply chains and workforce compromised by restrictions on travel domestically and across the U.S. border.

Many businesses in our states, including hospitals and medical equipment providers, depend upon travel across the northern border for essential supplies and personnel. In attempting to mitigate the spread of the coronavirus, we must ensure that any new travel restrictions do not handicap these industries and their ability to respond to outbreaks quickly and effectively. Federal agencies and the Coronavirus Task Force will need to coordinate closely to ensure the necessary exemptions are made to travel restrictions. We ask that as you make decisions to restrict travel to reduce the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, you immediately communicate with the businesses and individuals regarding those restrictions. This will reduce the uncertainty inherent in these unprecedented measures to control outbreaks and increase the effectiveness of our response.

We also urge you to consider the impact of travel restrictions on families and communities situated along the northern border that often rely on travel to and from Canada, and in some cases, share essential services. Of particular concern are individuals with family members in Canada and communities with deep economic ties across the border. These businesses and communities need to know how additional closures and quarantines will affect them, and we must ensure that all the necessary exemptions are made in the interest of public health and safety.


We also request that you issue uniform exemptions to any quarantines mandated by federal, state and local authorities. It is evident that some restrictions on movement will be required to stem the spread of this pandemic but targeted exemptions will also be necessary. These exemptions will undoubtedly evolve as the pandemic progresses, but we believe that some level of certainty regarding what businesses and individuals will be exempt from future actions is vital to ensuring the continuity of services to protect public health and safety. This action at the federal level is also necessary to eliminate inconsistencies in exemption policies across state and local governments.

We thank you for your consideration of this request.


Sincerely,




Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator




Sherrod Brown  
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan  
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy  
United States Senator



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



Steve Daines  
United States Senator



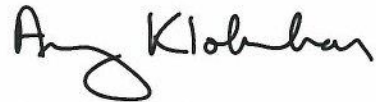
Susan M. Collins  
United States Senator



James E. Risch  
United States Senator



Mike Crapo  
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar  
United States Senator



Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Lisa Murkowski  
United States Senator



Patty Murray  
United States Senator



Kirsten Gillibrand  
United States Senator



Maria Cantwell  
United States Senator



Tina Smith  
United States Senator



Dan Sullivan  
United States Senator



Gary Peters  
United States Senator



Angus S. King  
United States Senator



Rob Portman  
United States Senator



Debbie Stabenow  
United States Senator

CC: The Rt. Hon. Justin Trudeau, Prime Minister, Canada

The Right Honorable Justin Trudeau  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
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