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## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 1, 2019

COMMITTEES:  
AGRICULTURE  
APPROPRIATIONS  
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Adele Fasano  
Director, Field Operations  
Seattle Field Office  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
9901 Pacific Highway  
Blaine, WA 98230

Dear Director Fasano:

I am writing to express my concerns with Customs and Border Protections' (CBP) recently announced plans to reduce the number of hours at the ports of entry located in Antler, Carbury, and Maida, North Dakota. I request that CBP revisit its decision to reduce hours, and instead maintain the existing hours of operation for these ports of entry.

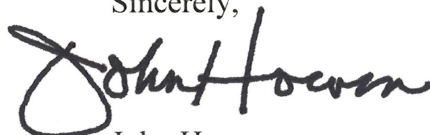
While I understand the challenges facing CBP officers and the need to be fiscally responsible with taxpayer dollars, in this instance, I do not believe reducing hours at the Ports of Antler, Carbury, or Maida would be prudent. In fiscal year (FY) 2019, I included language stressing the importance of remote area ports of entry and highlighting the need to recruit and retain officers at these locations. Reducing hours affects businesses, vacationers, travelers, and farmers, and will negatively affect North Dakota's hospitality, restaurant, and entertainment industries. I urge CBP to adhere to the language included in FY19 appropriations, and prevent any further reductions of hours at ports of entry.

As you are aware, the Antler port of entry is currently open daily from 9:00am to 10:00pm. The CBP's announced change will reduce the hours daily to 9:00am to 5:00pm. Operations at the Port of Carbury currently take place between 9:00am to 10:00pm. The CBP plans to close the port 3 hours earlier, at 7:00pm. Additionally, CBP proposes moving the hours of operation for the Port of Maida from 9:00am to 10:00pm to 9:00am to 7:00pm. The proposed reductions would adversely impact approximately 100 crossings per week between the three ports, including about 20 percent of the crossings at the Port of Antler.

As you know, two other ports of entry in North Dakota already had their hours reduced last year. In fact, when announcing the reduction in hours last year, CBP justified its action by saying that travelers could go 15 to 20 miles to the east and cross at Maida – now, Maida stands to have its hours reduced as well. I am concerned that further hour reductions will negatively affect North Dakota. Ports of entry are vital to North Dakota and the U.S. economy, and help foster communal ties with our northern neighbor, Canada.

As the reduced hours are currently scheduled to take effect on November 24, 2019, I request your urgent attention to this matter. My staff or I would be happy to discuss this issue further with you. Please contact Caitlan Flis at [caitlan\\_flis@hoeven.senate.gov](mailto:caitlan_flis@hoeven.senate.gov) with any questions. I look forward to your prompt reply.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven  
U.S. Senator