

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 27, 2022

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Commissioner Chris Magnus
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner Magnus:

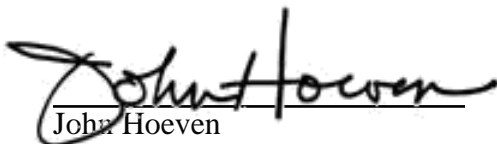
We write to request Customs and Border Protection work to returning hours of operation at the U.S.-Canadian border ports of entry in North Dakota to their pre-pandemic hours of operation. Despite the reopening of the U.S.-Canada border last year, North Dakotans remain negatively impacted as our ports of entry continue to operate under the reduced hours put into place due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is essential to have ports of entry open to pre-pandemic hours of operation to accommodate lawful travel and trade with Canada, our close ally and largest trading partner. As our economy is suffering from record high inflation, it is critical we remove obstacles to the legitimate flow of goods and services in order to alleviate mounting strain on the supply chain.

Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has repeatedly indicated the reason for reduced hours was to limit nonessential travel and keep employees safe from COVID-19 exposure. Two years later, COVID-19 is no longer the critical threat it was at the start of the pandemic. With travel restrictions lifted, port of entry hours should return to normal operations. North Dakotans' ability to conduct cross-border activity remains unnecessarily restricted as a result of CBP's refusal to return to pre-pandemic hours at our ports of entry.

We consistently hear from North Dakota's border communities that are struggling with the burdensome border restrictions and are frustrated by the arbitrarily reduced hours. CBP must take into account the economic impact reduced hours continue to have on both the U.S. and Canada.

We therefore urge CBP to extend hours of operation at North Dakota's ports of entry that were reduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic and work towards solutions to increase hours at the North Dakota ports of entry. We look forward to hearing back from you on this critical issue.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven

United States Senator



Kevin Cramer

United States Senator



Kelly Armstrong

United States Congressman

cc: Pete Flores

CBP Executive Assistant Commissioner of Field Operations