

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 20, 2021

The President
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

I was disappointed to learn today that your administration has once again extended the restrictions on non-essential travel to Canada, despite the fact that our neighbors to the north are allowing vaccinated Americans to travel to Canada. With today's announcement that the northern border will remain closed to non-essential travel through September 21, 2021, I write to once again urge an end to these restrictions so that the safe transport of goods and people between the U.S. and Canada can resume. Thank you for your attention to this matter which is of great importance to my constituents in North Dakota as well as our friends over the border in Canada.

As you know, the land and sea ports of entry between the United States and Canada have been closed for non-essential travel for over a year as part of measures taken to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. While these restrictions represented important steps taken to combat the pandemic, and although the Delta variant continues to pose public health challenges in our country and around the world, I am concerned that extending the border restrictions between the U.S. and Canada for another month fails to account for the availability of a safe and effective vaccine. To date, available data on the COVID-19 vaccines has shown that breakthrough cases remain rare, and the vaccine has largely prevented deaths and hospitalizations, with rare exceptions. As of August 19, 65 percent of the population in Canada was fully vaccinated, while the percentage of fully vaccinated individuals in the United States stood at 51 percent, with 60 percent having received at least one shot. Further, Canada has been permitting non-essential travel by fully vaccinated Americans, re-opening its country on August 9.

The continued border restrictions that prevent entry to the United States from Canada have created challenges for my constituents, including individuals who have family, friends, or property on the other side of the border. In addition to the personal impact to individuals on both sides of the border who have been unable to visit with loved ones, the continued closure of our northern border has also impacted small businesses and created supply chain disruptions. Trade and travel along the U.S.-Canadian border are essential to the U.S. economy as well as the economic livelihoods for states and those living along the border. The continued restrictions on non-essential travel have put an immense strain on communities along the U.S.-Canadian border, as the majority of these communities are remote and rely on tourism and travel between the United States and Canada.

It is imperative that non-essential travel be safely reinstated between the United States and Canada as soon as possible. Ending restrictions on non-essential travel at land and sea ports of entry between the United States and Canada would greatly benefit both countries by alleviating supply chain disruptions, helping border communities, and reuniting families and friends. Thank you for your prompt attention to this request.

Sincerely,



John Hoeven
U.S. Senator