



Pacific NorthWest Economic Region

2020 - 2021

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*Partial listing

July 20, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

RE: Re-Opening the U.S. Border to Canada

Dear Secretary Mayorkas,

Yesterday, the Government of Canada announced that fully vaccinated Americans will be allowed to travel to Canada as of August 9th. The Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER) applauds Canada for welcoming fully vaccinated Americans as we have called for a clearly laid out plan for the phased re-opening of the U.S.-Canada border since last July.

Today, we urge the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to reciprocate and end the 30-day extensions barring Canadians from entering the U.S. at the land border, which have been in place since March 2020.

Given our historically strong economic and diplomatic ties, it is time to re-open the border to our neighbors and longtime partners to the north in Canada. Our border communities have been separated long enough, and the economic, social, and trade impacts of the continued border closure have greatly impacted our region and our country as a whole. As the only statutory, non-partisan, bi-national, public/private partnership in North America, PNWER stands ready to work with governments on both sides to ensure a smooth transition towards the full re-opening of the U.S.-Canada border, including the implementation of technological solutions that can make the border of the future more efficient, safe, and resilient.

We are planning our 30th Annual Summit on August 15-19 in Big Sky, Montana, where our legislative and industry leaders will meet in-person to address many of the issues facing our cross-border U.S.-Canada region. It is important that key legislative leaders from Canada be allowed to come into the U.S. for this meeting. Unless the border restriction is relaxed for fully vaccinated Canadians, they are unable to cross the land and sea border.

We also invite you to attend this important event, and if possible, address our delegates, virtually, or in person. This is a critical time for stakeholder input to improve the vital linkages between the U.S. and Canada.

PNWER will continue to work toward piloting solutions that will improve our border processes and enhance our trading relationships going forward. Please do

not hesitate to contact PNWER Executive Director Matt Morrison with any suggestions by phone at (206) 399-4026 or by email at matt.morrison@pnwer.org.

Sincerely,



Senator Mike Cuffe
PNWER President 2019-2021
Montana State Legislature



Matt Morrison
Executive Director
PNWER