



April 9, 2020

Dr. Jorge Alcocer Varela  
Mexican Ministry of Health  
Lieja 7 Alcaldía Cuauhtémoc,  
Colonia Juárez, Ciudad de México. C.P. 06600

Dear Secretary Alcocer Varela:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance and our public and private sector members—all of whom have a stake in a strong and robust relationship with Mexico and in the conduct of cross-border trade and travel—we write to you today in the midst of the evolving public health crisis resulting from the spread of COVID-19.

To help preserve and strengthen our countries' successful cross-border relationships through these unique and challenging times, our organization would respectfully urge Mexico to adopt guidelines aligned to the extent possible with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security guidelines for critical infrastructure industries and the newly issued federal guidelines from the Canadian federal government.


We are concerned that a lack of clarity and alignment over what private sector industries and services are deemed by Mexico as "essential" is proving increasingly problematic for firms whose manufacturing operations and supply chains are partially or wholly dependent on output from Mexico.

Discrepancies between countries in the identification of essential services and industries are likely to cause increased disruptions to cross-border supply chains at a time when ensuring and preserving efficient cross-border trade and commerce is more important than ever, especially in industries like medical supplies, personal protective equipment, agribusiness, manufacturing and food and beverage (non-alcohol and alcohol).

In the spirit of more than 25 years of NAFTA and the soon-to-be implemented USMCA, the BTA would urge North American trading partners to work cooperatively during the COVID-19 crisis to promote continued supply chain flows. We believe this goal can be achieved while ensuring the health of workers and each country's sovereignty.

Sincerely,

  
Britton Clarke  
President

  
Paola Avila  
Chair