



July 21, 2020

Hon. Chad F. Wolf  
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf:

On behalf of the Border Trade Alliance's public and private sector members, we write to you today as a follow-up to our letter to you dated May 18, 2020 regarding cross-border travel via the United States' land ports of entry.

In our previous letter we cited our concerns over the potential indefinite continuation of border travel restrictions as a response to the Covid-19 pandemic. Those concerns are dramatically heightened today upon the recent announcement, that restrictions on what the Department of Homeland Security deems "non-essential" travel will continue until at least August 20.

We live and work in these communities. We are well aware of the profound public health challenges we are facing. But we would urge the Department to work with local governments to clearly establish benchmarks that will set us on the path to a safe and responsible reopening at some future date. Furthermore, we urge improved coordination between DHS and its counterparts in Mexico to reduce new disruptions in southbound travel. We would also support increased training of CBP personnel in the protocols necessary to control the virus' spread.

As you know, cross-border trips for shopping or leisure have ceased, severely damaging local economies that depend on border crossers. For border communities, especially along the U.S.-Mexico border, such crossings are essential to the livelihoods of thousands and to municipalities' ability to continue to deliver core government services.

As we wrote in May, an indefinite halt to cross-border travel will result in an economic calamity for the border region and U.S. border states. Our members in local governments and private sector stakeholders want to be part of the solution that will allow cross-border travel to resume safely at some future date. Our economic future depends on it. We are ready and willing partners in what we hope will result in the development of a solution that will protect and prioritize the public's health while staving off total economic collapse.

Sincerely,

Britton Clarke  
President

Sergio Contreras  
Chair

*Page 2, Acting Sec. Chad Wolf*

CC: Mark Morgan, Acting Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
Arizona Governor Doug Ducey  
California Governor Gavin Newsom  
New Mexico Governor Michelle Lujan Grisham  
Texas Governor Greg Abbott