



October 18, 2021

Hon. Eva A. Millona
Assistant Secretary for Partnership and Engagement
Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington, DC 20528-0525

Dear Assistant Secretary Millona:

The Border Trade Alliance thanks you for your recent outreach meetings with trade and travel stakeholders in Texas and Arizona and your expressed desire to assist these states' border communities as we prepare for the resumption of cross-border land travel by vaccinated Mexican nationals.

We know the details of the planned early November reopening are still emerging, but allow us to share with your office and Customs and Border Protection leadership our concerns and important questions:

- We would urge the Department to share with border communities and with U.S. consulates in Mexico what documentation will constitute acceptable proof of vaccination by travelers. For example, will DHS require paper or electronic records, or will either be acceptable?
- DHS should make clear its policy for vaccinated border crossers traveling with children under age 12 who are not yet eligible for a vaccination.
- The government of Mexico has approved more vaccines than the U.S. has, so DHS must communicate to border communities which vaccines it will consider as acceptable for entry.
- We urge DHS to work with its counterparts at the Department of State to keep consulate websites updated with hours of operation for the issuance of new B1/B2 Border Crossing Cards.
- CBP must ensure the land border ports of entry are properly staffed so we don't experience long delays and congestion as travelers seek to make trips they've been barred from making for more than one year.
- Southern border communities are popular winter destinations for Canadians, many of whom travel south by car. The concerns we've cited above should apply to the U.S.-Canada border as well.

Continued

We appreciate your attention to these questions and look forward to receiving answers as we prepare for the border reopening ahead of the holiday rush. The Border Trade Alliance, whose public and private sector members for 35 years have served as a resource to federal border agencies, welcome the opportunity to host you in a forum with our members either in person or virtually as your schedule allows to discuss these issues or any other pressing matters.

Sincerely,



Sergio Contreras
Chair



Britton Mullen
President