



December 20, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Border Trade Alliance writes to you today to register our strong concern that commercial vehicle inspections performed by the Department of Public Safety in the Texas-Mexico border region are once again causing severe backups and congestion and are harming supply chains during a season when shippers are striving to meet consumer demand and tight deadlines.

Our organization earlier this year expressed a similar sentiment when your administration began conducting enhanced safety inspections of commercial vehicles on roads and highways near international ports of entry. When DPS announced on December 13 that the inspections would begin again to deter cartel smuggling, we withheld judgment, hoping that they would be done in a manner that did not disrupt legitimate trade. Unfortunately, it appears that the inspections are again causing expensive shipping delays.

The BTA believes strongly that cross-border trade and travel efficiency should be balanced with security. However, this balance requires coordination between agencies at all levels of government, which is why we oppose any state-level action that duplicates the inspections already performed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection, whose work at the land border ports of entry is informed by highly attuned risk assessment models, intelligence gathering, and a commitment to the agency's dual mission of enforcement and facilitation.

Border states like Texas have an important enforcement role to play at our border, including ensuring truck safety and code compliance, but the state should be working in collaboration with CBP, not engaging in a new inspection model that will slow the movement of freight, and that will only further stress the country's struggling supply chains and put even more upward pressure on consumer prices during the holiday season and amid a time of high inflation.

The BTA understands and shares the frustrations of border state governors over the federal government's management of the border, but DPS enhanced inspections of commercial vehicles are causing more harm than good. The inspections are duplicative and are causing expensive delays. We respectfully request that your administration cease these inspections.

Sincerely,

Britton Mullen
President

Lance Jungmeyer
Chairman

CC: Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw