



June 27, 2023

Hon. Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cruz:

The Border Trade Alliance writes to extend its support for your efforts to streamline the process for obtaining the Presidential Permits that are required for the construction and expansion of international border crossings at the United States-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders.

As you know, the Presidential Permit process for border crossings has historically been expensive, cumbersome, and time consuming. That process, however, was greatly improved in 2019 following the issuance of Executive Order 13867, which designated the Secretary of State to receive all applications for the issuance or amendment of Presidential Permits for the construction, connection, operation, or maintenance of international border crossings. The Secretary makes a recommendation to the President of the United States whether to proceed with the application. The Secretary's recommendation is to occur within 60 days of application receipt, and any further information requested of agencies by the President is to be provided within 30 days.

But as administrations come and go, the durability of the process outlined in Executive Order 13867 becomes more uncertain.

We agree with you that modernized border crossings are of national importance, as they are essential to maintaining the U.S.' competitive standing and ensuring the country's ability to efficiently process international trade and travel. Requiring Presidential Permit applications to be subject to an onerous and overly bureaucratic regulatory regime risks dramatically delaying the completion of needed projects along the border and drives up costs.

Based on recent conversations with senior staff members from the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation, we are encouraged by your desire to explore a more robust role for the legislative branch to influence the expansion and construction of international bridges and ports of entry. We believe the inclusion of language around permitting reform in the recently passed Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023 is indicative of a desire in both chambers of Congress and in both parties to design a better process toward the completion of infrastructure projects that are of national importance. Furthermore, an improved Presidential Permit process is consistent with the passage of the bipartisan infrastructure law that authorized \$3.4 billion for the construction, modernization, and expansion of 26 land border ports of entry.

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On behalf of the BTA's public and private sector members, we thank you for your leadership on this matter. You can count on our organization as an ally in your work to improve this vital process for the commerce and security of the United States.

Sincerely,



Lance Jungmeyer
Chairman



Britton Mullen
President