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September 21, 2022

Hon. Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Ave SE
Washington, DC 20528

Re: Lifting northern border COVID-19 related restrictions.

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

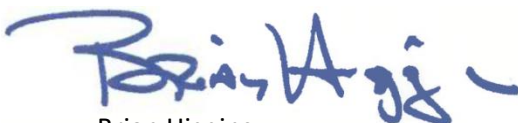
Multiple published reports are now indicating that the government of Canada will allow their existing COVID-19-related border restrictions to lapse when their current regulations expire at the end of the day on September 30th. The time is long overdue for the United States to cease its own COVID-19-related restrictions on our northern border.

Currently, the stated policy of the U.S. government is that Canadians entering the U.S. by car must have been vaccinated and must be prepared to show proof of vaccination. There is a disconnect between this policy on paper and what is actually happening on the ground in northern border inspection booths thousands of times each day, however. In reality, CBP officers are not requesting that Canadians provide their proof of vaccination unless a vehicle is diverted to secondary inspection for some other, unrelated reason. This obvious contradiction between policy and practice underscores fact that the policy is accomplishing no public health or border security goals while it imposes an unnecessary burden on the economies of northern border communities and an unnecessary hardship on northern border families.

As economic actors, when the travelling public is faced with increased uncertainty at the border, they respond by avoiding cross-border travel. This avoidance has a very tangible negative economic impact in Buffalo and Niagara Falls, NY, and in other communities on both sides of the border from coast to coast. Again, the time is long overdue for the U.S. to cease all COVID-19-related restrictions on our northern border to allow cross-border travel and its associated economic benefits to return to pre-pandemic levels.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress