

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

February 05, 2016

The Honorable R. Gil Kerlikowske  
Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Commissioner Kerlikowske:

We write again to reiterate our opposition to the Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) continued efforts to reduce the operational hours of the Port of Raymond in Northeast Montana. Past and present efforts by CBP to reduce operational hours at the Port of Raymond fail to recognize the importance of cross border travel to local and regional economic activity.

Currently, the Port of Raymond is open 24 hours per day. However, we understand that CBP plans to implement a pilot program in March, closing the border six hours per day, between 1:00 a.m. and 7:00 a.m. Conversely, we understand the Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) has no intentions of reducing their adjacent port's hours, the Port of Regway.

Montana's largest foreign trading partner is Canada. Over 25,000 Montana jobs are supported by trade with Canada. In 2014, Canada purchased approximately \$564 million of Montana's goods – 36.5% of the state's total exports. The Port of Raymond is critical to this trade and is the only port in the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, a designated a Federal high priority corridor by an act of law in 2005. Prohibiting the continuous flow of goods along the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway impedes Montana's and the United States' potential to maximize economic opportunities with Canada.

As voices for Montana in the U.S. Senate and the U.S. House of Representatives we urge CBP to suspend this latest attempt to unduly harm rural regional commerce by reducing the Port of Raymond's hours of operation. Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



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STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator



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RYAN ZINKE  
United States Representative