

STEVE DAINES
MONTANA

320 HART SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-2651

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2606

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
ENERGY AND NATURAL
RESOURCES
FINANCE
INDIAN AFFAIRS

June 17, 2020

The Honorable Alex Azar
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue N.W.
Washington, DC 20528


Dear Secretary Azar and Acting Secretary Wolf,

Thank you for your leadership and commitment during this unprecedented time to protect public health and safety. As we contemplate efforts to reopen the American economy, I ask that you reconsider the agreement between Canada and the U.S. to extend the prohibition on non-essential travel to July 21, 2020 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The health and safety of Montanans remains my top priority, however, our communities continue to feel the economic repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic. The reduction in cross-border traffic in Montana has had a significant impact on agriculture, small business, and tourism, which are the leading drivers of our economy. Many businesses in Montana depend upon travel across the northern border for essential supplies and commerce. While necessary at the time, these restrictions now present a serious disruption for the communities that rely upon access to the northern border. It is evident that some restrictions on movement are required to prevent the further spread of COVID-19, but targeted exemptions are needed in order for Montanans to come out stronger on the other side.

For this reason, I urge you to safely reopen the Canadian border as soon as possible to reduce the impact felt by Montanans. Thank you for your time and attention to this matter and I look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator