



August 10, 2021

VIA EMAIL

Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
Chair and Ranking Member of the House Committee on Homeland Security
Chair and Ranking Member of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Chair and Ranking Member of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Homeland Security
Members of the Congressional Northern Border Caucus
Members of the Congressional Southern Border Caucus
Members of the Canada/US Interparliamentary Group

Re: New Border Procedures related to COVID-19 Vaccination and Testing

Dear Honorable Members of Congress,

Our membership is composed of over 70 industry organizations and companies representing all modes of transportation, the cargo and logistics industries, as well as the business and tourism sectors. Our members are direct users of U.S. border services and the viability of their businesses rely on the free and efficient flows of goods and travelers across the U.S.-Canada border.

We are writing to ask you to provide the necessary resources to U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to allow them to support the re-opening of ports of entry (land, sea, air) when appropriate. In addition, we ask you to direct the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to report to Congress with a plan to clarify and operationalize new border procedures related to COVID-19 vaccination and testing verification for travellers across all modes of transportation. Our request aligns with the responsibilities vested in the DHS by "Executive Order on Promoting COVID-19 Safety in Domestic and International Travel" issued on 25 January 2021.

During the pandemic, many ports of entry across the U.S. have reduced CBP personnel due to the lower volume of traffic. As we have seen in recent months, movements of goods and people have returned much faster and with higher volumes than expected but with less predictability than in pre-pandemic times. Deploying adequate levels of staffing and clarifying border procedures for users of U.S. border services can avoid unnecessary and costly delays, which will inevitably affect the speed of recovery as well as U.S. competitiveness and leadership globally.



It is our view that adequate operationalization of border procedures will be fundamental for the efficient, orderly and safe re-opening of U.S. borders to fully vaccinated foreign travelers. Establishing a clear plan will also support the cost-effective allocation of CBP resources and will foster collaboration amongst transportation operators and providers. We believe that congressional action and oversight can support the effective deployment of new border procedures that can minimize public health risks, reduce costs for governments (financial and non-financial), users and operators, and leverage of readily available border technologies.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, our Border Recovery Working Group and Task Forces (Air, Land, Maritime, and Supply Chains) have continuously engaged with U.S. government officials and decision-makers to discuss the many challenges associated with border re-opening and identify concrete solutions to reduce bottlenecks and potential delays at ports of entry during the post-pandemic recovery.

Based on our first-hand experience at the border and our multi-modal vision and capabilities, we would like to offer our assistance in identifying the most viable technological and automation solutions that can support the operationalization and best allocation of resources at the border for all modes of transportation. We would also like to discuss with you the possibility to create a Public-Private Border Re-Opening Advisory Committee to support coordination efforts with the Canadian government during the upcoming months.

We respectfully request that you consider sending a letter to Secretary Mayorkas as soon as possible asking for a clear operational plan for new border procedures related to vaccination and negative COVID testing verification for travelers across all modes of transportation (air, land, and maritime).

We thank you for your attention. If you would like to discuss further, we can be reached through Matt Morrison, Co-Chair of the Future Borders Coalition, at (206) 443-7723 or by email at: matt.morrison@futureborderscoalition.org.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Morrison".

Matt Morrison
Co-Chair, Future Borders Coalition
CEO, Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)