

United States Senate

July 21, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
United States Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Ave NE
Washington, D.C. 20016

Secretary Mayorkas:

I write today to urge the Department of Homeland Security to work with Canadian officials to develop a coordinated plan to fully reopen the United States-Canada border and to express concerns about the Department's recent decision to continue restrictions on nonessential travel. Only opening the Canadian side of the border will hurt Montana's families and disadvantage farmers and ranchers, small business, and rural communities along the northern border.

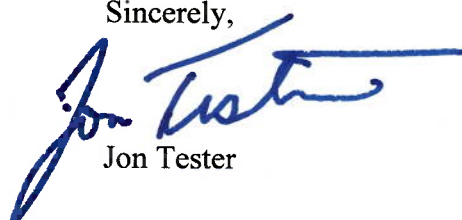
Earlier this week, Canadian officials announced that the country will open its border to American citizens and permanent residents on August 9th, as long as they are fully vaccinated and meet other requirements. Canada will then open up travel to vaccinated individuals from other countries on September 7th. This reopening is possible because of increased vaccination rates and the continued work of public health officials in both countries. Lifting restrictions on trade and travel between the United States and Canada will help communities on both sides of the border recover from the COVID-19 pandemic.

However, the Department announced today it will continue to restrict nonessential travel into the United States until at least August 21st. This uncoordinated reopening will allow Americans to travel to Canada, but will restrict Canadians – even those who are fully vaccinated – from accessing American businesses, fully restarting trade, and seeing family members on the other side of the border. I am concerned that this will unfairly impact Americans and cause confusion along the United States-Canada border.

I urge the Administration to work with Canadian officials to ease travel restrictions and coordinate the full reopening of the border in a safe, fair, and efficient manner. I stand ready to help ensure the Department has the tools and resources it needs to ensure that border officials are prepared to safely handle the increased trade and travel across the border.

Reopening the United States-Canada border cannot be one-sided. Our counties must work together to ease travel restrictions, facilitate trade, and coordinate the reopening of the border. I look forward to continuing to work with the Department to swiftly and fully reopen the northern border.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester