

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 7, 2023

Mr. Pete Flores
Executive Assistant Commissioner
Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Executive Assistant Commissioner Flores,

As Members of Congress who represent states across the northern border, we write to request U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) expand the hours of operation at ports of entry in our states to at a minimum, match the operating hours with their adjacent Canadian Border Services Agency (CBSA) ports. These ports of entry serve a vital role in connecting our states' economies with Canada, and our constituents heavily rely on them for commerce, tourism, religious activities, trade, travel, health care, tribal connections, and more.

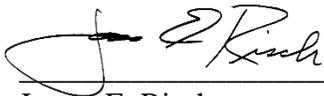
In March, CBSA announced it would resume regular hours of operation at 42 ports of entry across Canada. However, the same day, CBP only announced temporary expansions of hours at four ports. CBP has recently extended hours at other U.S. ports of entry to align with their adjacent CBSA ports. This includes the ports of entry at North Troy and West Berkshire in Vermont, which are now open 24/7 to match their Canadian counterparts. While we commend the recent extension of hours in Vermont, we see no reasonable justification for continuing to limit the ports of entry hours in other northern border states.

The mismatched and uncoordinated hours are causing confusion and frustration across the northern border. For example, the Port of Regway in Canada is now open 24/7, but the Port of Raymond in Montana is still only open from 6:00am -10:00pm. The same can be said for the Port of Rykerts, which is open from 7:00am – 11:00pm in Canada, while the Port of Porthill in Idaho is only open until 7:00pm. In North Dakota, several ports of entry close at 4pm or 5pm, while their adjacent Canadian ports of entry are open until 9pm or 10pm.

We understand CBP believes our ports of entry hours should solely be based on the amount of vehicular and pedestrian traffic going through our ports of entry. It is our strong belief this justification is flawed because our constituents are less likely to use the ports given these shortened hours. We believe when the border hours are extended to at a minimum, match adjacent CBSA ports, vehicular and pedestrian traffic will increase to match, if not exceed, pre-pandemic levels. At the same time, we stand ready to support your efforts to provide additional resources to CBP officers who currently are working hard to secure the northern border, to improve CBP recruitment, retention, and staffing levels, and to boost security along the northern and southern border to prevent illegal immigration.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing a response from you no later than 30 days from receiving this letter.

Sincerely,



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Russ Fulcher
Member of Congress



Jon Tester
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Kelly Armstrong
Member of Congress



Steve Daines
United States Senator



Ryan Zinke
Member of Congress



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



Matt Rosendale
Member of Congress