



April 25, 2022

Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary  
Brian Hyer, Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, D.C. 20528

Chris Magnus, Commissioner  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Re: Reduced hours of service at Ports of Entry on U.S.-Canada border

Dear Secretary Mayorkas and Commissioner Magnus:

As a state that shares a 310-mile border with Canada, North Dakotans depend on access to ports of entry for both leisure and commerce, and any reduction in hours of operation causes significant hardship on the movement of citizens, goods and tourists between our two nations. Canada is North Dakota's No. 1 trading partner, accounting for more than \$6 billion in exports in 2019, and nearly 365,000 border crossings of trucks into North Dakota from Manitoba in 2020.

It has come to our attention that U.S. Customs and Border Protection may plan to continue with reduced hours at 10 U.S. ports of entry to North Dakota that had their hours of operations reduced in April 2020 in the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. Nine of the reductions ranged from four hours to six hours; the other reduction was two hours.

When our Tourism Division inquired last week about restoring the previous hours of operation, CBP informed us that it has no plans to change the hours at any ports of entry in North Dakota, Montana, Minnesota, Idaho or Washington.

This is unacceptable. These April 2020 reductions were clearly in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, as CBP had just completed a round of adjustments to hours of service at several North Dakota ports of entry in November 2019. Yet now that the pandemic has waned and Canada has restored hours of operation at its ports of entry, CBP is inexplicably delaying a

resumption of pre-pandemic hours at a time when states are trying to resume normal commerce. Businesses are already dealing with the highest inflation rates in over 40 years, and the burden of reduced hours at border crossings only adds inefficiencies and costs to businesses struggling to bounce back from the pandemic.

We urge CBP to restore the pre-pandemic hours at these ports of entry immediately and request a meeting to discuss this pressing issue as soon as possible.

Regards,



Doug Burgum  
Governor