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United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

October 25, 2021

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20016

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to express my strong support for the Administration's recent decision to allow certain non-essential travelers from Canada to enter the United States at ports of entry beginning November 8 and to urge the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to ensure that the new protocols are implemented without significantly delaying cross-border travel.

I have long advocated to safely open up both land and air travel between the United States and Canada. Businesses have suffered and friends and family have been separated for too long. The Administration's decision to reopen the land and ferry ports of entry is an important step as we continue to fight our way out of this pandemic and recover from its disruptive economic impact.

I appreciate the Administration's actions to curb the transmission of the coronavirus in the United States, including the new vaccination requirements for cross-border travelers from Canada. At the same time, the Department must work to ensure that border officials at land and ferry ports of entry have the training and resources needed to safely, accurately, and swiftly implement the new requirements.

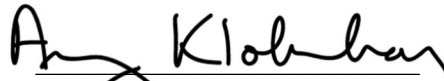
Therefore, I respectfully request responses to the questions below:

1. What steps has the Department taken to ensure that border agents are prepared to implement the new policy on November 8?
2. How has the Department prepared for the influx of travelers that are expected to arrive from Canada at land and ferry ports of entry?
3. What efforts has DHS made to coordinate with the Canadian government to ensure that travelers are aware and prepared to comply with the new requirements?
4. How does DHS plan to coordinate with Tribal Nations near the northern border regarding the planned re-opening of the land border and ferry ports of entry?

5. What are the specific implementation challenges you expect with respect to the planned opening of the land and ferry ports of entry, particularly in northern border communities, and are there any legislative steps Congress can take to address those challenges?
6. Does DHS need additional resources to facilitate the planned re-opening of the land border and ferry ports of entry?

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator