

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 16, 2022

The Honorable Antony Blinken
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas
Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Blinken and Secretary Mayorkas:

I write to ask that the Department of State and the Department of Homeland Security work with the Canadian government to explore options to ease some border restrictions between the U.S. and Canada and to address the unique challenges facing those wishing to travel to Canada utilizing the Remote Area Border Crossing Program, which allows U.S. residents to enter Canada via water or ice, rather than a land port of entry, airport, or ferry terminal.

The pandemic has affected people across borders, and both the United States and Canada took necessary and understandable actions to stem its spread, including limiting non-essential travel. While many restrictions to enter Canada have been lifted, the Remote Area Border Crossing Program is still in place. The Remote Area Border Crossing Program allowed residents to apply for permits which allowed individuals to call and inform them of their notification to travel to Canada. Without the Remote Area Border Crossing Program, many properties and businesses remain functionally unreachable.

This is an issue that primarily affects those along the Minnesota/Ontario border, and as other restrictions have been lifted and vaccine requirements put into place, my constituents are still hoping for a solution to allow them to access their businesses and residences in Canada.

As the Biden Administration continues to move forward with a plan to allow us to navigate life with more normalcy while preparing for future coronavirus mutations or variants, the need for drastic restrictions on travel should give way to common-sense solutions that will allow for U.S. residents to visit their homes and businesses in Canada.

Just as our countries have come together to find solutions to our common problems over our long history together, I ask that you work with your Canadian counterparts to identify and implement appropriate measures that will restore access to this part of our state.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator