

# United States Senate

May 18, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden:

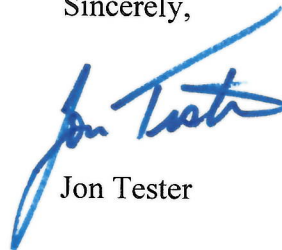
I write today to respectfully ask that you direct your administration to work with Canada to swiftly reopen the U.S.-Canadian border. As a farmer in north central Montana, I hear often from my neighbors and others in the region about the negative impact the continued border closure has on their daily lives. Each day that passes without resolution is a hit to family farmers and ranchers, small businesses, and the rural communities along the northern border.

I am pleased to see reports that U.S. and Canadian officials have begun preliminary discussions about reopening the border. However, there are still no immediate plans to reopen the border and there has been no additional guidance on timing. I urge you to work with the Canadian government to develop an actionable plan to reopen the northern border for all trade and travel in a timely manner. Our governments must continue to work together to establish clear reopening thresholds and policies.

I strongly believe we can reopen the border in a way that promotes economic activity and prioritizes the health and safety of residents on both sides of the border. Any reopening plan must respect local public health guidance, include continued vaccination efforts, and ensure that the border can remain open. The plan and benchmarks should also be transparent, include clear guidance on timing, and address the ongoing confusion and frustration on both sides of the border. Lastly, any plans for the northern border must include maintaining 24-hour operation at ports of entry and take in to account the unique needs of rural states like Montana.

I stand ready to work with you to reopen the U.S.-Canadian Border, help Montana communities recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and the border closure, and increase our national security along the northern border.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester