

United States Senate

April 14, 2022

The Honorable Chris Magnus
Commissioner
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Commissioner Magnus:

I write today to urge Customs and Border Protection (CBP) to consider opening all ports of entry in Montana to pre-pandemic hours. CBP must make the northern border and folks in rural communities a top priority as it works to reopen our borders for trade and travel.

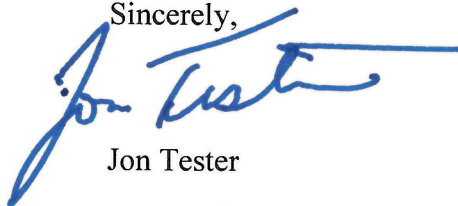
We have made significant headway in combatting the COVID-19 pandemic, yet most ports of entry in Montana continue to operate at reduced hours. Expanding the hours of operation for the ports of entry across the northern border to pre-pandemic hours, including implementing extended summer hours and returning to 24-hour operations at certain ports, is critical for the economies of rural communities across northern Montana. These communities depend on trade and commerce with our Canadian neighbors. This is especially true as we enter the summer season, when agricultural needs and outdoor activities are at their peak.

We are continuing to see the reduced hours affect communities in Montana. Farmers and ranchers in Glasgow who rely on the Port of Opheim are struggling to get the inputs they need. Folks in Malta who rely on the Port of Morgan are concerned about their summer motorsports schedule, and truckers who used to rely on traveling through the Port of Raymond late at night are being forced to detour hundreds of miles.

Operations along the northern border are critical to our national security and supply chain, help boost our economy, and are essential for folks in Montana. Expanding hours of operation and ensuring adequate staffing at these and other ports along the northern border must be part of CBP's plan to reopen the border.

I urge you to reopen the ports of entry in Montana to pre-pandemic hours, and stand ready to assist your efforts to strengthen security and trade across the northern border.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester