President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden,

We write to you today regarding cross-border COVID-19 vaccination requirements between the United States and Canada.

Effective October 1, 2022, the Canadian government allowed its final COVID-19 cross-border entry restrictions to expire, ending vaccination and testing requirements. However, your Administration continues to adhere to these restrictions, which is hindering the U.S.-Canada trading relationship and burdening the U.S. supply chain – especially in the agricultural industry.

Today, we respectfully request your Administration take action to join our Canadian friends and end all cross-border vaccination and testing requirements for commercial truck drivers. It is time to allow for the full and open movement of goods and commodities along our cross-border economic supply chain once again.

Several essential commodities are imported into the U.S. from Canada, including fertilizer, oats, propane, and chemicals. More specifically, the U.S. imports 86 percent of potash fertilizer from Canada. Approximately 90 percent of the oats milled in the U.S. are imported from Canada with 15 percent being trucked over the border. Further, 85 percent of the oats milled in Canada are imported by the U.S., all of which enter the country via truck. Certain essential produce, fertilizers, and chemicals are exported to Canada as well.

The trucking industry is already suffering immense labor shortages, especially for drivers, which is raising costs on consumers and limiting the supply of nutrients, food, energy, chemicals, and other major products. Combined with a looming threat of a rail worker strike, we must look to alleviate any outstanding restrictions for our commercial truck drivers to further incentivize not only their return to work, but for onboarding new drivers as well.

The cross-border restrictions have caused many American and Canadian businesses to lose significant revenue or close altogether, at an estimated $1.5 billion each month.

Open trade and cross-border supply chain mobility between the highly integrated American and Canadian agricultural sector is critical to our bilateral relationship. At this point in time, there is hardly any legitimate reason for cross-border vaccination requirements to persist for our nation’s
truckers. We are two and a half years removed from the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic and one and a half years removed from civilian access to COVID-19 vaccines, not to mention over a year removed from available booster shots. COVID-19 hospitalizations and deaths have steadily declined for months. It is far past the time we join Canada and the rest of the world in fully reopening our economy.

Sincerely,

Eric A. "Rick" Crawford
Member of Congress

Glenn “GT” Thompson
Member of Congress

Ralph Norman
Member of Congress

Brian Mast
Member of Congress

Randy Weber
Member of Congress

Troy E. Nehls
Member of Congress

Elise M. Stefanik
Member of Congress

Sam Graves
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Tracey Mann
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Nancy Mace
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Jeff Van Drew
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Mike Gallagher
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Diana Harshbarger
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Pete Stauber
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Doug LaMalfa
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John Moolenaar
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Doug Lamborn
Member of Congress

James R. Baird
Member of Congress

Tim Walberg
Member of Congress

Claudia Tenney
Member of Congress

Gregory F. Murphy, M.D.
Member of Congress

Tom Tiffany
Member of Congress

Mariannette Miller-Meeks
Member of Congress

Brad R. Wenstrup, D.P.M.
Member of Congress

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

Louie Gohmert
Member of Congress
cc:
The Honorable Pete Buttigieg, Secretary of Transportation
The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security