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May 14, 2021

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

Dear President Biden,

I write to urge you to directly engage with Prime Minister Justin Trudeau of Canada to re-open the border between our two countries to additional essential traveler classes by Memorial Day, with a full reopening by early July. Trends in vaccination and the most recent guidance from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) affirm that the time is right to do this safely and effectively.

Under your leadership, the United States has done an exemplary job on vaccinating the American people. Nearly 60 percent of the adult population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and over 117 million American adults are fully vaccinated. The number of daily reported cases have drastically fallen since January. The seven-day average of new cases is down by a full 13 percent over the past week.

The progress we have made in developing, distributing, and administering a vaccine to fight this terrible virus is remarkable. So much so, that on May 13th, the CDC released guidance stating that fully vaccinated Americans may now safely resume all activities undertaken prior to the pandemic. Fully vaccinated Americans no longer need to wear masks or socially distance except for in certain circumstances. The efficacy of the vaccine is so strong that fully vaccinated Americans who come into contact with someone with COVID-19 no longer need to quarantine or get tested unless they develop symptoms.

Canada, for its part, has made steady progress in vaccinating their population. More than half of Canadian adults have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. I applaud your administration's decision to share doses of the vaccine with Canada to expedite their fight against the pandemic. We can and should share more vaccines with them.

For over a year, Americans along the Northern Border have awaited eagerly the end of the pandemic and resumption of normal commerce and travel between our two countries. The CDC's decision lifting the masking requirement for fully vaccinated Americans is an affirmation of the scientific fact on the power of vaccinations to crush COVID-19. This virus is not eradicated, but we have a handle on how it is contracted and transmitted. This decision underscores the minimal

risk Americans would pose to Canadians when crossing the border to visit family and property. We cannot keep the border closed forever – families, loved ones, businesses, and communities along the northern border have sacrificed so much for the past year to get where we are. Now is the time for the Biden Administration to act in furtherance of the CDC guidance and work with the Government of Canada to finally open the border beginning Memorial Day.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brian Higgins". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Brian Higgins
Member of Congress