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March 26, 2020

The Honorable Chad Wolf
Acting Secretary
Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20016

Dear Acting Secretary Wolf,

I am very concerned about recent reporting that indicates your intention to send 1000 military personnel to support Customs and Border Protection operations at the northern border.

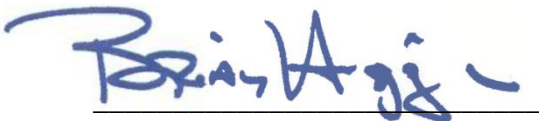
The mutual agreement between the United States and Canada restricting non-essential travel to slow the spread of COVID-19 was an unfortunate, but necessary step. Troops being stationed at the border "to increase CBP's capacity to protect public health and prevent the spread of COVID-19" is an unnecessary escalation that negatively impacts our long-standing friendly relationship with our ally.

The militarization of the border with personnel and resources stands in contradiction to our history of coordination and cooperation with our Canadian partners. The Administration's concern with border crossings in between ports of entry should be addressed through diplomatic channels as opposed to unilateral action.

Canada has demonstrated a willingness to work with the United States on securing and protecting the land border. In the mutual agreement, Canada committed to returning asylum-seekers attempting to enter the country outside of official ports of entry. The Administration would be allocating military resources that can be utilized in more productive ways to secure the homeland.

The US-Canada border should remain un-militarized and I strongly urge you to reconsider this proposal.

Sincerely,



Brian Higgins
Member of Congress