

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 9, 2021

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

Dear Mr. President,

The United States has deeply felt the impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and it has had unique impacts along the northern border. To defeat this virus once and for all, it is imperative we continue supporting efforts to keep Americans healthy and safe. Yet, over the past sixteen months, many individuals, families, and businesses across Michigan have been adversely affected by restrictions for international travelers between the United States and Canada. As our nation begins to make a strong recovery, we respectfully add our support to the group of members who have recently written you and urge your administration to adopt an evidence-based strategy to safely reopen international travel along the northern border.

Restrictions were originally implemented on March 21, 2020 to limit all non-essential travel across the northern border. While these orders were necessary to mitigate the rapid spread of COVID-19, data has indicated we can begin taking steps to safely lift these restrictions and develop a science-based path forward. Over 50% of American adults are now fully vaccinated, and almost 60% of the Canadian population has received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Further, the CDC has recently published guidance expressing it is safe for fully vaccinated individuals to travel, as the latest protective procedures including the federal mask mandate, international testing requirements, frequent cleaning routines, and other screening procedures have minimized the risks of international travel.

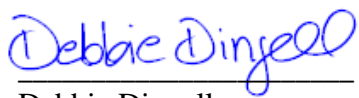
For over a year, our offices have spoken with distressed families, workers, and businesses in Michigan who have been impacted by the continued travel restrictions. Due to Michigan's close proximity to the northern border, these issues are particularly salient in our communities. Under current regulations, friends, families, and loved ones continue to be separated, and Americans who own property in Canada are prohibited from safely traveling to their residences. We have also heard from countless businesses who have been financially hurt by the steep decline in international travel and tourism.

Thanks to your leadership and the new Administration's swift actions to address the COVID-19 pandemic, more and more individuals are vaccinated every day and our country is well on our way toward a strong recovery. Recognizing these improving conditions and positive progress, we support and urge your administration to develop a data-driven, science-based roadmap forward to reopen the northern border to international travel and ease inbound entry restrictions.

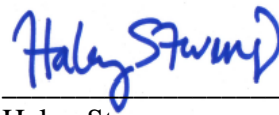
Not only is this possible, but it absolutely critical and long-awaited for many. We need to give the American people confidence that a comprehensive plan to reopen the northern border is underway.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter, and I look forward to continuing this work together.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Haley Stevens
Member of Congress