



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 17, 2020

The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Vice President Pence,

The shared border between Canada and Michigan is critical in accessing health care professionals and supporting our manufacturing industry. After the declaration of a national emergency due to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, we want to ensure that our shared border with Canada—especially between Michigan and Ontario—remains open.

Thousands of our nurses and health care professionals live in Canada and travel between the two countries every day. Their employers need certainty that there is continuity of business operations, which are currently under a tremendous strain. It is our understanding that at Henry Ford Hospital alone, 1000 Canadian nurses and care providers commute across the border daily, 65 percent of whom are bedside nurses. Therefore, an inability to cross the Michigan-Canada border each day or significant delays will cripple Michigan hospitals as well as other medical facilities. Any shortages in frontline health care workers that deliver critically needed services could be detrimental as we combat this public health emergency.

Also, it is important to understand that the crossings between Michigan and Canada account for a quarter of the trade in the United States. The economy would be directly impacted by significant delays or closures. Roughly 400,000 individuals cross the border every day, many with deadlines for delivering cargo or reporting to work. This trade supports jobs throughout both countries. We must not forget this as we are considering additional measures to combat the spread of COVID-19.

We want to be a partner in ensuring that public safety comes first, but truly believe we can do it responsibly without a complete closure of our border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rashida Tlaib".

RASHIDA TLAIB
Member of Congress

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Debbie Dingell".

DEBBIE DINGELL
Member of Congress



JACK BERGMAN
Member of Congress



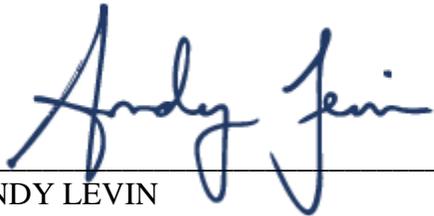
BILL HUIZENGA
Member of Congress



DANIEL T. KILDEE
Member of Congress



BRENDA LAWRENCE
Member of Congress



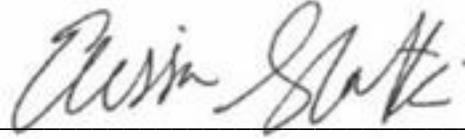
ANDY LEVIN
Member of Congress



PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress



JOHN R. MOOLENAAR
Member of Congress



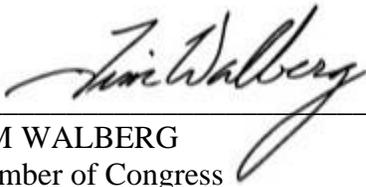
ELISSA SLOTKIN
Member of Congress



HALEY M. STEVENS
Member of Congress



FRED UPTON
Member of Congress



TIM WALBERG
Member of Congress

CC: The Honorable Chrystia Freeland, Deputy Prime Minister of Canada
The Honorable Mike Pompeo, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
The Honorable Chad Wolf, Acting Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable Wilbur Ross, Secretary, U.S. Department of Commerce
The Honorable Gretchen Whitmer, Governor, State of Michigan