

CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS  
5TH DISTRICT, WASHINGTON

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June 29, 2018

Commissioner McAleenan  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington, DC 20229

Dear Commissioner McAleenan:

I write to express my concerns regarding the proposed reduction in hours to the Danville Port of Entry in my district. This border crossing into Grand Forks, British Columbia, is a vital corridor for my constituents that live in Ferry County and Danville. Not only does this Port of Entry provide a way for the communities of Grand Forks and Ferry County to come together, it provides necessary economic support for the community. Limiting the hours is detrimental and will only have a negative effect on the communities.

Many of my constituents own and operate small businesses just over the border in these counties, which are frequented by tourists from Canada. Local businesses, whether it be a coffee roasting company, a diner, or a brewery, will suffer greatly because of the proposed reduction in hours. Activities hosted by some of these small businesses are based on the patronage of people from the surrounding communities, and people are regularly participating in events well after 5:00pm, and even after 8:00pm. Reducing the hours would severely restrict economic activity, costing these small businesses crucial revenue from tourism.

Additionally, a number of my constituents cross the border to work. By reducing the Port of Entry hours, it would increase up to 10 times the amount of time it takes for their commute, and in the winter months, this could put their lives in danger. The change in hours would force my constituents to traverse 45 miles across one of the highest mountain passes in Washington State in order to enter Canada.

As you may know, the Pacific Northwest experiences natural disasters every year, and for my constituents that must traverse this pass, it poses a great danger to them. My district has recently experienced several natural disasters -- flooding, wildfires, windstorms, and snowstorms -- that have closed the roads going south. Closing the border early will cut my constituents off from medical or emergency services entirely during such scenarios. Most recently, Highway 21 was washed out for several days due to flooding. If it wasn't for the ability to drive to Canada to buy food and supplies, my constituents could have been stranded.

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Maintaining the current hours of the Danville Port of Entry is key to the economic stability of the area and ensures the safety of my constituents. I respectfully request that you reconsider changing the hours of the Danville Port of Entry. I would also request to be briefed on how you arrived at this decision to change the hours. I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Cathy McMorris Rodgers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "C" and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Member of Congress