

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 28, 2021

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President,

We write to thank you for your work pushing the COVID-19 vaccine out across the country and abroad. Many of our states are seeing their COVID-19 cases significantly decline thanks to increased vaccination efforts that continue to vaccinate Americans every day. However, as members representing southern border communities that are achieving high vaccination rates, we remain concerned about the indeterminate closures and travel restrictions at our land borders.

Our communities represent key arteries for our national economy through the land ports of entry connecting us with our Mexican sister cities. These ports process hundreds of billions of dollars in trade and commerce annually. They also act as vital connectors that allow regional residents to visit family, go to school, shop, and do much more in each other's cities. The health and safety of these communities, whether within or beyond the border, are of utmost importance to us. As the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention updates their guidance to support increased allowable activities, we now believe it is appropriate for the stringent restrictions to be reassessed to determine if the closures should be lifted.

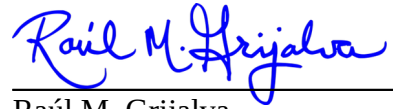
We urge the Administration to work with border communities, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Department of Health and Human Services on identifying the vaccination rate in American communities that would result in the easing of travel restrictions at our land ports and the re-opening of the ports to our neighbors on the other side of the U.S-Mexico border. We strongly feel that as communities in many states gradually return to normalcy under the guidance of your Administration, the same must be extended to border cities whose cultural and economic lifeline is closely tied to these land ports. In the interim, we are encouraged by your vaccine distribution efforts and hope to see some of these vaccines be surged into Mexico to further bolster the health of our border communities.

We look forward to working with you on a strategy to quickly and safely re-opening our land ports. Additionally, we are committed to working with you on defeating this pandemic and returning our communities along the border to normalcy once and for all.

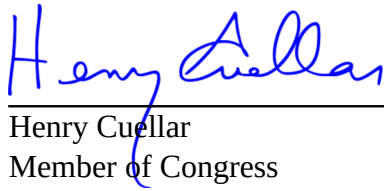
Sincerely,



Veronica Escobar
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Henry Cuellar
Member of Congress



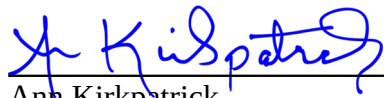
Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress



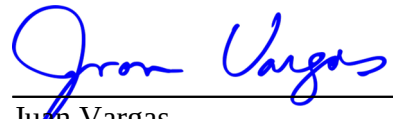
Tony Gonzales
Member of Congress



Filemon Vela
Member of Congress



Ann Kirkpatrick
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress

CC:

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas, Secretary of Homeland Security

The Honorable Antony Blinken, Secretary of State

The Honorable Xavier Becerra, Secretary of Health and Human Services

Susan Rice, Director, Domestic Policy Council

Jake Sullivan, National Security Advisor

Jeffrey Zients, White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator

Gayle Smith, Global COVID Response Coordinator

Dr. Anthony Fauci, Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases