



**The Premier of Alberta
307 Legislature Building
Edmonton, Alberta
Canada T5K 2B6**



**The Governor of Montana
PO Box 200801
Helena, Montana
USA 59620-0801**

August 8, 2023

Right Honourable Justin Trudeau
Prime Minister of Canada
Office of the Prime Minister
80 Wellington Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Prime Minister and Mr. President,

We are writing to request your support to designate the Wild Horse Port of Entry on the border between Alberta and Montana for 24-hour service.

Of the six border crossings between Alberta and Montana, there is only one 24-hour border crossing, Coutts/Sweetgrass, which serves as the main trade route between our jurisdictions. The Wild Horse Port of Entry currently operates for travellers and permit-only commercial traffic between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday to Friday only.

Due to limited hours of service and deficiency of facilities and infrastructure, the Wild Horse crossing serves as a primary bottleneck, constraining north-south traffic and trade. As a result, businesses are either missing opportunities to move their products and services or are faced with a difficult decision to use other, more costly routes. For instance, truck drivers who transport goods must either rush to cross during the limited hours of operation or travel longer distances to other ports of entry with 24-hour service.

Furthermore, the limited hours of service create hardships for our citizens who rely on the border crossing for work or access to essential services. Travelling long distances to reach the next nearest open crossing is inconvenient and increases emissions and costs of travel for our constituents.

A 24-hour border crossing at Wild Horse would better serve our citizens, expedite the movement of goods, and help address ongoing supply chain challenges. It would be a crucial link in the Eastern Alberta and Central Montana trade corridor, expanding northbound connectivity, while increasing southbound connectivity into the United States and to tidewater in Mexico. Commercial traffic moving to and from the central, southeast and northeast U.S. would also achieve substantial cost savings by transiting through a Wild Horse border crossing that is open 24 hours a day, and with the appropriate infrastructure investments on both sides of the border.

Trade between our two nations is vital: two-way trade between Alberta and the United States reached US\$160.4 billion in 2022, while bilateral trade between Montana and Canada totalled US\$10.7 billion. Ensuring these goods can continue to flow unimpeded is critical to the long-term economic prosperity of our two jurisdictions.

We recommend the two federal governments work together to expand the Wild Horse Port of Entry to a 24-hour border crossing, with greater capacity to accept commercial traffic. Your support for such an initiative would be productive in developing a solution that caters to both of our countries' economic and security needs. We also urge you to consider options to allow for increased services at lower costs, such as co-located facilities at the border crossing, to lever the port most effectively. This will benefit Montana's and Alberta's economies and contribute to the overall economic growth of the United States and Canada.

Thank you for taking this request under consideration. Alberta and Montana look forward to working with you to make it reality.

Sincerely,



Honourable Danielle Smith
Premier of Alberta



Greg Gianforte
Governor of Montana

cc: Honourable Dominic LeBlanc, Minister of Public Safety, Democratic Institutions and Intergovernmental Affairs, Canada

Alejandro Mayorkas, United States Secretary of Homeland Security