



CITY OF BUFFALO
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

BYRON W. BROWN
MAYOR

February 7, 2020

The Honorable Chad F. Wolf
Acting Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Acting-Secretary Wolf:

I write with urgency on behalf of the City of Buffalo and all of Western New York to request that you rescind the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) decision to suspend New York State from the Global Entry travel program.

The suspension of new enrollment/reenrollment in Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Trusted Traveler programs (Global Entry, FAST, SENTRI, and NEXUS) will have a devastating impact on the City of Buffalo. As you know, Western New York relies on the strength of our cross-border economy, as we are strategically located within 500 miles of 40% of the bi-national population. Our region is a gateway for commerce, generating approximately \$85 billion in annual trade.

Many City of Buffalo residents who rely on accessible border crossings for their livelihoods use NEXUS to commute to work on a daily basis. Approximately 1,084 Canadian-owned businesses employ nearly 79,000 New Yorkers. Additionally, bi-national corporations in the region rely on the FAST program to expedite truck delivery times. There are a total of 680,900 jobs dependent on trade and investment with Canada. By suspending new enrollment/reenrollment in Trusted Traveler programs, there will be an increase in the delivery costs of goods to and from Canada, and commute times will increase to unacceptable levels.

In the City of Buffalo, we have worked very hard and invested heavily to achieve increased manufacturing production, and the harmful effects on local companies that use the border to export products via truck delivery will be disastrous. There are seven international ports of entry in the region, including four international vehicular bridges: Peace Bridge, Lewiston-Queenston Bridge, Rainbow Bridge, and Whirlpool Bridge. According to a 2018 Border Traffic and Statistics study by the Bridge and Tunnel Operators Association (BTOA), approximately 1,917,638 trucks passed over the Peace Bridge and the Lewiston-Queenston bridge in 2018.

This suspension will not only have a negative impact on local businesses and residents, but will also impact Customs Border Protection (CBP) and Transportation Security Administration

(TSA) employees. With a decrease in Trusted Traveler program members, TSA and CBP will need to devote more money and staff to screen individuals crossing the border. Furthermore, it is unclear how the conclusion can be reached that New York's Green Light Law would undermine Global Entry security, since Global Entry applicants must submit their passports and undergo rigorous background checks and in-person interviews for approval.

This policy is not in the best interest of the Homeland, which will have a lasting and catastrophic impact on all of our residents and businesses. I strongly urge you to reconsider this decision.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Byron W. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Byron" being the most prominent.

Byron W. Brown
Mayor

Cc: The Honorable Charles E. Schumer, United States Senator
The Honorable Kirsten E. Gillibrand, United States Senator
The Honorable Brian D. Higgins, Member of Congress
The Honorable Joseph D. Morelle, Member of Congress
The Honorable Tom W. Reed, Member of Congress