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July 13, 2022

Honorable Kirsten Hillman
Ambassador of Canada to the United States
501 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20001

Dear Ambassador Hillman,

We write regarding the border policies that have been implemented by the Canadian government that are negatively affecting the economy of the United States and Canada. According to the Buffalo Niagara Partnership, more than 650,000 jobs in New York state depend on trade investment with Canada. This is especially critical in Western New York, where our economy is strongly tied to our strong partnership with our Canadian neighbors. The border restrictions implemented by the Canadian government put that economic activity at risk.

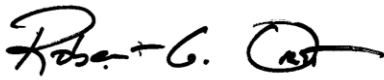
Americans and Canadians are frustrated and confused by Canada's "preclearance policy," especially the use of the new "ArriveCan" app. Many Americans and Canadians have realized crossing the border is too difficult due to these policies, and have ultimately decided not to do so. This is evident from the number of border crossings over the Peace Bridge which have dropped precipitously from 171,000 in May of 2019, to a meager 101,000 in May 2022.

The businesses in border cities and municipalities in both New York and Canada rely heavily on tourism from across the border. They suffered during the height of the pandemic and continue to do so now with policies that further hinder businesses. Without the regular tourism from across the border, local businesses have been losing the revenue they rely upon that is derived from cross-border travel.

The preclearance policy and the ArriveCan app no longer serve any purpose. The United States does not have a similar policy and currently allows cross border travel without requiring citizens to jump through hoops. In order to help our economies, we urge you to end Canada's preclearance policy and use of the ArriveCan app.

Thank you in advance for your attention to this critical matter. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss further.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert G. Ort in black ink.

Robert G. Ort
Senate Minority Leader
62nd Senate District

Handwritten signature of Angelo J. Morinello in black ink.

Angelo J. Morinello
Assemblyman, 145th District

cc: Chris Jacobs, Congressman
Chuck Schumer, US Senator
Kirsten Gillibrand, US Senator