



Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance

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James D. Phillips
President & CEO

February 10, 2015

The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
U.S. U.S. Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson,

The Can/Am BTA is a transcontinental / bi-national broad based organization with participation from all 27 states on or near the U.S./Canada Border (Washington to Maine including Alaska) and the Canadian Provinces with a combined network which involves over 60,000 companies and organizations in their individual memberships and was instrumental with Congressman John LaFalce in forming the House Northern Border Caucus in 1994.

Participants in Can/Am BTA include members from border trade / crossings/ transportation segments: producers; shippers; brokers; import/exporters; transportation providers; bridge and tunnel operators; chambers of commerce; business/ trade corridor associations; economic development and gov't agencies.

Can/Am BTA actively participates in Border Management, Transportation and Trade issues affecting "The Two largest Global Trading Partners" and true "Good Neighbors".

The proposed Secure Our Borders First Act (S. 208) contains a provision that specifies Biometric Inspection be done by CBP on all people exiting the US into Canada that is neither realistic nor practical.

We calculated the cost of this idea in 2003 at \$3 billion and not able to be done as expansion space to implement this approach is not available at our exit points at land Ports of Entry. Further it would effectively close the border by creating absolute grid lock. We provided this analysis to the Beyond the Border initiative by the President and Prime Minister as a factual basis to achieve the intended objective by initiating an Entry Exit process that has the Canadian CBSA forwarding entry data to CBP that is exit data from the US and vice versa CBP to CBSA. This initiative was included in the Action Plan and is well underway toward full completion with the initial phases successfully completed. No gridlock or even additional delay time will occur.

We respectfully urge the reconsideration and removal in the Bill of the US/Canada biometric exit requirement and replace it with the Entry/Exit initiative already underway and proven workable and successful.

The Canadian/American Border Trade Alliance has been actively involved in most aspects of the operation of the shared land border since 1992. Our activities and pertinent information about Can/Am BTA is contained on our web site www.canambta.org.

If you need further information or have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,
Jim
Jim Phillips

Cc: Senator Charles Schumer