

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 7, 2019

Commissioner Kevin K. McAleenan
U.S. Customs and Border Protection
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Commissioner McAleenan:

We write to express our strong opposition to Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) latest effort to reduce hours of operation at ports of entry in Montana. The Morgan, Opheim, Raymond, and Scobey ports of entry are essential to farmers, ranchers, and businesses across eastern Montana, and we urge you to reconsider this misguided course of action.

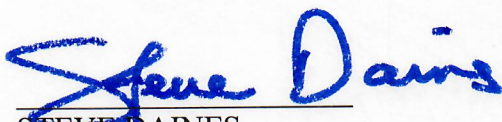
CBP has attempted to reduce hours of operations at ports of entry in the past, specifically at the Port of Raymond. As you know, the Port of Raymond is part of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, considered to be a National Highway System High Priority Corridor due to its critical importance for trade. Unfortunately, CBP is now proposing to reduce the hours at the Port of Raymond and three other crucial ports of entry in Montana.

Agriculture is Montana's number one economic driver and forcing shippers to significantly alter their routes and schedules to get their goods to market presents a substantial burden. Montana's largest export market continues to be Canada. In 2017, Montana exported \$685 million worth of goods to Canada, representing 42% of our state's total goods exports. Maintaining the current hours of operation is critical to the continued flow of goods and economic activity between Montana and Canada.

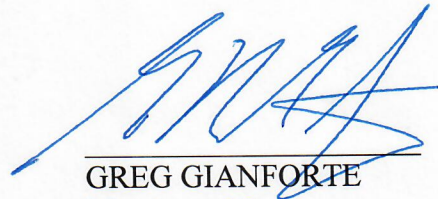
Reducing hours of operation at these four Montana ports of entry will disproportionately affect Montana's rural economy and inhibit economic growth and opportunity. We continue to stand against any action that negatively impacts Montanans and our state's commerce. We encourage you to reevaluate this proposal.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and we look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



GREG GIANFORTE
Member of Congress