

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

April 9, 2019

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

Dear Commissioner McAleenan:

We write again to express our strong opposition to Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) proposed reduction in hours of service at ports of entry in Montana. We have yet to receive your reply to our letter dated March 7, 2019. Further, your staff would not commit to ensuring that you would respond prior to making any final decision on the proposal.

Since our last letter regarding the proposed changes at Morgan, Opheim, Raymond and Scobey ports of entry, the CBP has held "listening sessions" in the affected communities. Our staff was also in attendance, and they noted a lack of candor regarding opposition from the Canadian side, as well as resistance to even allowing members of the affected communities to express their opinions. Further, many in attendance were left with the impression that these meetings were not actually designed to gather input but to announce an already decided upon policy. This flies in the face of representative government.

We can appreciate the crisis on the southern border requires your attention and more resources. We continue to support legislation ensuring CBP receives the funding and support it needs. Your staff have informed our staff that these proposed changes would not result in any employees leaving Montana communities, and would result in reduction in overtime costs of \$180,000. Keeping ports of entry open to rural Montana is worth more than \$180,000.

We request you delay any final decisions regarding changes to hours of operation until June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2019, when seasonal hours of operation changes are scheduled to take place. At the very least you should delay any decision until actually listening to impacted communities and talking to the people elected to represent Montanans. We eagerly await your responses to this and other letters as well as our request for a meeting with you personally.

Sincerely,



GREG GIANFORTE  
Member of Congress



STEVE DAINES  
United States Senator