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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 24, 2021

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Joseph R. Biden
President
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Biden:

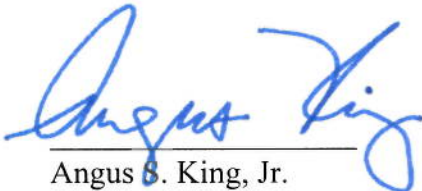
On September 20, 2021, you announced a decision to ease restrictions for vaccinated international visitors arriving by air to the United States beginning in November of 2021. While I applaud this decision, which will strengthen our nation's economy while protecting our people from the lingering threat of COVID-19, I urge you to also extend this logic to allow fully vaccinated Canadians who meet the same criteria to travel across the U.S.-Canada border by car.

Canadians may fly to the U.S. under current regulations, but that is not usually practical for visits to Maine. Given the rural nature of our state, Canadians cannot simply fly from any Canadian city to Fort Fairfield, Presque Isle, or even Bangor for that matter. Instead, a visitor wishing to go from neighboring Fredericton, New Brunswick, for example, to Presque Isle, Maine (less than a two hour drive) must first take a 3 hour flight (costing about \$500) to Boston, and then drive six hours north to Presque Isle. This additional travel time places a wholly unnecessary burden on visitors, resulting in less family time for vaccinated Canadians visiting loved ones in Maine after more than a year apart. More likely, it will deter fully vaccinated Canadians from making the trip at all, further hurting our local economies and adding yet another challenge for local small businesses still reeling from the effects of the pandemic.

I agree with you that we must keep Americans safe during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, especially with growing concerns of new variants. That is why I recommend implementing the same testing and vaccinations standards for Canadians wishing to cross our border that you outlined for international travelers flying here, especially since there is no practical difference between arriving by plane or car; the key either way is the vaccination. The Canadian government has already implemented these standards for Americans traveling to Canada, and your decision announced this week provides an excellent opportunity to reciprocate.

I urge you to consider this request and reopen the U.S. border with Canada as soon as possible.

Sincerely,



Angus S. King, Jr.
United States Senator

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