



Legislative Building

Washington State Legislature

Olympia, WA 98504-0600

July 30, 2020

The Honorable Patty Murray, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Maria Cantwell, U.S. Senator
The Honorable Suzan DelBene, U.S. Representative, 1st District
The Honorable Rick Larsen, U.S. Representative, 2nd District

Dear Members of Congress:

As legislators, we understand the challenging and unprecedented nature of COVID-19 and the negative impacts it has had on our public health, safety, and economic security. We value the efforts of our federal government to provide much needed direct resources and assistance to our local, state, and tribal governments during this time. As public servants, we have a tremendous responsibility to protect the health and economic well-being of our constituents and communities. We value our continued collaboration at all levels of government as we work together across the aisle to best serve our constituents.

As you are aware, Point Roberts is a unique place facing disproportionate hardship during the COVID-19 pandemic. Among the toughest challenges has been the closure of the US-Canada border to “nonessential” crossings with uncertainty to when it will open again. Residents of Point Roberts rely heavily on resources and services provided in Canada or mainland Whatcom County including food and groceries, health care visits, and even employment opportunities. With the current border crossing restrictions, Point Roberts residents continue to struggle.

We have heard from our local elected officials from Whatcom County, City of Bellingham, City of Lynden, City of Ferndale, City of Sumas, City of Everson, City of Nooksack, and City of Blaine¹ in addition to the Whatcom County Fire District 5² and several constituents. We want to echo their concerns and highlight our shared goal to advocate for increased flexibility under the international border closure agreement. We call upon your positions as U.S. Senators and Congressmembers to engage with our U.S. Department of Homeland Security and Customs and Border Protection to negotiate with the Canadian government, Province of British Columbia, and Canada Border Services Agency. We seek greater clarity and flexibility in our current border crossing agreement in addition to including specific provisions addressing the unique needs of Point Roberts and our constituents.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue. Please do not hesitate to call upon us to support your efforts in the matter.

Sincerely,

¹ Attachment 1: Whatcom County and Cities Joint Letter on Point Roberts and Border Impacts

² Attachment 2: Whatcom County Fire District 5 Letter