

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2307
February 22, 2021

President Joseph R. Biden, Jr.
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20500

President Biden,

We write to express our serious concerns over the continued closure of America's northern border. As you may know, Minnesotans along our Canadian border rely heavily on tourism and cross-border travel to support their businesses. They have been hit especially hard by the pandemic-related travel restrictions, devastating local economies.

The Northwest Angle ("the Angle") is an area of Northern Minnesota that is mainly accessible by land through Canada. As a result of border closures stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic, businesses there have been cut off from tourists critical to the economic livelihood of the community. To mitigate the effects of this border closure, residents of the Angle built a 22-mile ice road crossing over Lake of the Woods for tourists to use. However, this road will soon be unusable as the ice melts, yielding the community isolated from its livelihood once again.

With widespread COVID treatment options and vaccine deployment well underway, we believe it is time to safely reopen the route to the Angle, a 40-mile road through a remote and low-populated area, to provide a lifeline to its struggling businesses. There are many potential solutions, namely a trade corridor that would allow all economic activity to resume on the Angle safely and with accountability. As we approach a full year with a closed northern border, it is critical to this remote community that a solution is found before access points are once again closed off for tourists.

As you continue to discuss the relationship between the United States and Canada with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, we ask that you keep these important concerns of our constituents in mind. Without swift action, American citizens and small businesses will continue to suffer unnecessarily.

Sincerely,



Michelle Fischbach
Member of Congress



Pete Stauber
Member of Congress



Tom Emmer
Member of Congress