

July 23, 2021

**Joint Statement from Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce (WERCC),
Detroit Regional Chamber (DRC) and Canada-U.S. Business Association (CUSBA)**

It has been a challenging 16 months since the U.S.-Canada border was closed to non-essential travel, creating uncertainty and frustration on both sides. Travel restrictions imposed to contain the spread of the virus are estimated to have cost Canada's gross domestic product (GDP) \$27.9 billion to \$37.1 billion and the loss of 400,000 to 500,000 jobs in 2020¹. The U.S. Travel Association estimates that each month the border is closed costs the U.S. economy \$1.5 billion in potential travel exports. While more work on vaccination rates is needed and diligence is still necessary, our organizations representing business interests on both sides of the U.S.-Canada border are united in calling for business, social and family-related travel to resume between our nations with appropriate safeguards in place.

The announcement earlier this week that the Canadian border would re-open for fully vaccinated American citizens and permanent residents starting on August 9 is welcomed by businesses and individuals on both sides of the border. Prior to the pandemic and border closure, annual U.S. travel spending by Canadians averaged over \$16 billion². In 2019, Canadian residents made more than 20 million trips to the U.S., but Statistics Canada reports that in 2020 travel plummeted to 4.2 million trips³. Allowing for safe travel across the U.S.-Canada border will accelerate the economic recovery in both nations.

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, the Detroit Regional Chamber, and the Canada-US Business Association call on the United States government to reciprocate the actions of the Canadian government and ease border restrictions. Our respective nations' social and business fabric are inextricably intertwined – especially in the automotive, mobility, technology and health care sectors. Safely easing border restrictions will aid North American competitiveness in the global marketplace as well as the economic well-being of individuals and businesses in both Canada and the United States.



Rakesh Naidu
President & Chief Executive Officer
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber
of Commerce



Sandy K. Baruah
President & Chief Executive Officer
Detroit Regional Chamber



Mark High
President
Canada-United States Business
Association

1. Statistics Canada. [The Economic Impact of Travel restrictions on the Canadian Economy due to the COVID-19 Pandemic](#), Liu, 2020
2. US Travel Association, National Association of Realtors and US Homeland Security, 2021
3. Statistics Canada. [Table 24-10-0045-01 Travel by Canadian residents in Canada and abroad by trip purpose \(x 1,000\)](#)