



December 20, 2023

Honorable Troy A. Miller  
Acting Commissioner  
U. S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue NW  
Washington D.C. 20004

Dear Acting Commissioner Miller:

On behalf of our respective state business organizations which collectively represent thousands of employers and 5.9 million employees who create trillions of dollars in annual economic output, we respectfully request that the U. S. Customs and Border Protection agency reverse the closure of international rail crossings at Eagle Pass and El Paso. These closures are creating great economic harm to our nation's manufacturers, farmers, and consumers, and these routes should immediately be reopened to protect commerce and prevent further damage to our economy.

The Eagle Pass and El Paso border crossings represent 45 percent of cross-border rail traffic for American rail carriers Union Pacific and BNSF. There is not enough capacity at other gateways to reroute the freight rail, especially with few days remaining before the Christmas holiday.

Every day that the border is closed, American railroads are forced to embargo goods on nearly 100 trains and 10,000 rail cars. They are not accepting new shipments. The closures are impacting a wide range of industries including grain, automobile, food and beverage, cement, chemicals, electronics, and more.

There is no doubt that the federal government needs a solution to the migrant immigration issue which is a complex humanitarian crisis.

However, shutting down key entry points for commerce with our nation's largest trading partner is not the answer. Railroads are committed to doing their part to look for people and contraband that impact safety and security. This includes using their own employees, police forces, and technology including an x-ray system that uses gamma ray imaging to monitor freight.

Businesses and consumers in our states cannot afford to for manufactured products and agricultural commodities to sit during one of the busiest times of the year. These two international rail crossings need to be immediately reopened.

Thank you.

**Randy Zook**

Randy Zook  
Arkansas Chamber of Commerce  
Associated Industries of Arkansas



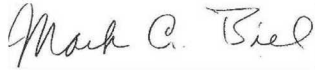
Lance Hastings  
California Manufacturers & Technology Association

**Alex LaBeau**

Alex LaBeau  
Idaho Association of Commerce & Industry



Mark Denzler  
Illinois Manufacturers' Association



Mark Biel  
Chemical Industry Council of Illinois



Rob Karr  
Illinois Retail Merchants Association



Brian Burton  
Indiana Manufacturers' Association



Michael Ralston  
Iowa Association of Business & Industry

**Frank Jemley**

Frank Jemley  
Kentucky Association of Manufacturers



John Walsh  
Michigan Manufacturers Association



Doug Loon  
Minnesota Chamber of Commerce



Ray McCarty  
Associated Industries of Missouri



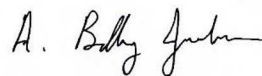
Mike Johnson  
Nebraska Chamber of Commerce



Carla J. Sonntag  
New Mexico Business Coalition



Angela Wilhelms  
Oregon Business & Industry  
Manufacturing Council of Oregon  
Oregon Retail Council



Bradley Jackson  
Tennessee Chamber of Commerce



Todd Bingham  
Utah Manufacturers Association

**Kristofer Johnson**

Kristofer Johnson  
Association of Washington Business



Kurt Bauer  
Wisconsin Manufacturers & Commerce