



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

April 20, 2020

The Honorable Martha Bárcena Coqui
Mexican Ambassador to the United States
Mexican Embassy
1911 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington, D.C. 20006

The Honorable Mike Pompeo
Secretary of State
U.S. Department of State
2201 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear Ambassador Bárcena Coqui and Secretary Pompeo:

Thank you for the work you are doing to halt the spread of the novel coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). More must be done, and we look forward to working with you to address cross-border needs associated with protecting the health of individuals and sustaining vital economic activity.

We know the value of the San Diego-Tijuana megaregion cannot be overstated. With the San Ysidro Port of Entry being the busiest land border crossing in the Western Hemisphere and commercial trade between San Diego and Tijuana valued at \$2.1 million per day, the livelihoods of millions of people depend on it each day. The continued daily border crossing of working professionals and goods for many industries, including health care, defense, agriculture, etc., are paramount during this public health crisis.

Unfortunately, we have heard from the business community that a lack of clarity, coordination and guidance for determining which industries or jobs are essential, has brought additional confusion during this time. It's disrupting supply chains, halting manufacturing, and putting people at risk. To fix confusion and get back on track, we request that the Mexican Federal Government act swiftly to enact policies that align with actions already taken by the federal governments in both the United States and Canada naming essential industries, services, jobs and more.

We also request that the U.S. Department of State act swiftly to provide any support necessary for showing the impact these industries have on our overall national defense, medical care, and

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other essential needs. As you know, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security issued guidance on determining essential businesses in mid-March 2020, and has provided updated guidance since. Additionally, the State of CA has issued more specific guidance when necessary.

Only by working together can we maintain the livelihoods of the workers and business that depend on the Cali-Baja economy - valued at \$2.5 billion annually. Our unified actions will ensure we come out of this pandemic more resilient than ever before. Thank you for your consideration and willingness to work with us.

Sincerely,



Scott Peters
Member of Congress



Mike Levin
Member of Congress



Susan Davis
Member of Congress



Juan Vargas
Member of Congress