



April 8, 2022

The Honorable Greg Abbott  
Office of the Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott,

As members of the El Paso state legislative delegation, we write to express our concerns with your decision to direct the Texas Department of Public Safety to inspect every commercial truck coming in from Mexico at all border crossings in the state. Implementing these enhanced safety inspections is already increasing wait times by several hours at ports of entry along the Texas-Mexico border and stalling the movement of goods.

Trade with Mexico is an essential economic driver for Texas, and inefficiencies at the border can enormously impact the economy and the everyday lives of Texans along the border. Ciudad Juarez, Mexico, and El Paso form the second largest binational metro area along the southern border with a population of 2.3 million people. These two sister cities share a strong cross-border relationship that is witnessed by daily crossings through its international bridge system that contributes to strong social and economic ties. Currently, El Paso's international bridge system ranks 2nd in personal vehicle and pedestrian crossings and 3rd in cargo crossings marking El Paso as a significant player in the movement of people and goods across the U.S.-Mexico border. With the supply chain challenges companies are currently facing, the delayed traffic will be an added strain that will likely impact Texas businesses.

All vehicle traffic that passes through our ports of entry is subject to federal *and* state inspection—which have different processes and are conducted by various officials at different locations. The Texas-Mexico Border Transportation Master Plan (BTMP), recently released by the Texas Transportation Commission, cites these disjointed inspections as a contributor to border crossing times. The BTMP calls for expedited inspection programs that streamline the inspection process. This session, the Legislature passed Senate Bill 1907, authored by Senator Blanco, to require the Texas A&M Transportation Institute—in consultation with DPS and TxDOT—to conduct a study on the feasibility of co-located inspections at ports of entry in Texas. Co-located inspection facilities would begin to provide a solution to these inefficiencies.

An international border that is more efficient but also safer is beneficial to Texas' competitiveness and enhances the state's overall economic health. We respectfully ask you to reconsider your decision to increase vehicle inspections at our ports of entry, leading to delays that increase the cost of transportation and trade, reduce industry competitiveness and economic development, and affect local communities.

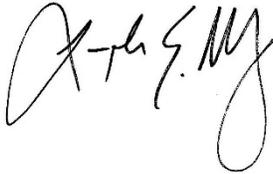
Sincerely,



César J. Blanco  
Texas State Senator  
District 29



Mary E. Gonzalez  
Texas State Representative  
District 75



Joe Moody  
Texas State Representative  
District 78



Lina Ortega  
Texas State Representative  
District 77



Art Fierro  
Texas State Representative  
District 79



Claudia Ordaz Perez  
Texas State Representative  
District 76