



Joseph R. Biden
President, United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

February 11, 2021

Dear President Biden,

Re: Executive Order 13962

It was with pleasure that we listened your warm Inauguration speech late last month. The change in tone and content was marked by allies around the world and your choice of words was prescient given the global strife the COVID19 Pandemic has left so many of us in.

“So here is my message to those beyond our borders: America has been tested and we have come out stronger for it. We will repair our alliances and engage with the world once again. Not to meet yesterday’s challenges, but today’s and tomorrow’s. We will lead not merely by the example of our power but by the power of our example. We will be a strong and trusted partner for peace, progress, and security.”

Canada and the United States of America have shared the longest undefended border in the world for over 150 years and have been partners in peace, progress and security throughout our shared existence. In addition to our shared contributions to the Great War, World War 2, The Korean War and the Cold War, we have dedicated ourselves to mutual peacetime progress through medicine, social justice, human rights and shared values.

Central to our mutual security is that our prosperity has been experienced equally on either side of the 49th parallel. We just completed a restructuring of our trade relationship through the new United States Mexico Canada Agreement and we have recommitted to the mutual benefit of our vast economic integration. Recently, the Automotive Parts Manufacturers’ Association updated our 2017 study of Canadian automotive investments in your country and the results were eye-opening.

Canadian-owned automotive supplier firms operate 156 manufacturing facilities in 22 states, employing almost 50,000 Americans. Most of the large automotive investments in Canada have been built around the more than 110-year American investment in this country by Ford, General Motors and the American

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divisions of Stellantis. It is a uniquely symbiotic relationship that underscores the premise that we do great things together, including making cars.

As we manage our way through the crisis of our times, we are very pleased to see how seriously your administration is taking the COVID19 threat at home and around the world. Recent reports suggest that your Administration will be able to have met gross domestic vaccination demand by April or May, and for that you are to be commended. In Canada, we have had some difficulty securing stable predictable supply to date from our European sources and their threatened export controls warn of more potential delay.

On December 8, 2020, your predecessor signed into effect Executive Order 13962, “Ensuring Access to United States Government COVID–19 Vaccines”. Under its authority, various federal agencies were tasked with ensuring that the manufacture and distribution of vaccines were prioritized to meet domestic demand before then turning to the aid of international partners. It was a noble action that would have been considered by any President, but it has also acted like an export control by another name.

With your Administration’s strong progress against domestic goals bearing fruit in the heavy task of vaccinating Americans across the country, we ask that you give due consideration to relieving the same threat across the integrated economies of North America. Canada, and Mexico, face a material vaccination gap to the USA due to international sourcing dynamics. That gap may be as long as 6 months or more. We ask that your Administration consider the unique integration of our economies and our collective history of partnership and revisit the principles of the EO 13962 for your closest allies.

As our two countries collectively plan for a 2021 loosening of border restrictions and the re-embrace of friends and colleagues across the border, you might agree that the Canadian interest and the American interests here are very aligned on mass vaccination. We have done so much together in a collective pursuit of “*peace, progress and security*”, taking the first steps into a post-COVID19 world together seems like a natural next chapter.

With Warmest Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Flavio Volpe". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Flavio Volpe
President

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