

February 23, 2024

The Honorable Ted Cruz
167 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
357 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Pete Ricketts
139 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rick Scott
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Mike Lee
363 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Cruz, Ricketts, Scott, Lee, and Blackburn:

On behalf of the Intermodal Association of North America (IANA), a leading transportation trade association representing the combined interests of the intermodal freight industry, I am writing to express our support for the Keeping International Land Ports of Entry Open Act (S. 3796).

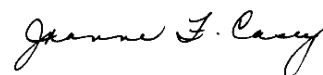
As the only transportation trade association that represents the combined interests of intermodal freight providers and customers, IANA represents more than 1,000 corporate members, including railroads, ocean carriers, ports, intermodal truckers and over-the-road highway carriers, intermodal marketing and logistic companies, and suppliers to the industry. IANA's associate (non-voting) members include shippers, academic institutions, government entities, and non-profit trade associations.

The U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) December 2023 decision to close four land ports of entry along the southern border – a critical North American trade route – provided our members with insufficient opportunity to reroute shipments and significantly impeded the flow of freight. Not only did these unforeseen closures abruptly halt and delay rail and truck travel, but the consequences of the closures rippled across the interconnected supply chain network and ultimately burdened the U.S. economy and consumers.

The Keeping International Land Ports of Entry Open Act recognizes the need to address humanitarian issues at the U.S. border while also prioritizing supply chain fluidity and economic growth by maintaining the seamless flow of cross-border trade. The legislation would prevent similar supply chain disruptions by ensuring CBP retains the resources necessary to support the continued movement of intermodal freight through our land ports of entry. Moreover, the bill incorporates critical transparency provisions to ensure the public is kept apprised of decisions impacting operations at commercial crossings.

IANA applauds your leadership on this important legislation. If I can be a resource on this topic, please do not hesitate to contact me at jcasey@intermodal.org or 301-982-3400 ext. 349.

Sincerely,



Joanne F. Casey
President and CEO
Intermodal Association of North America