



THE PREMIER
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APR 25 2008

Honourable Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
360 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your recent letter and for enclosing the Chamber's report *Finding the Balance: Reducing Border Costs While Strengthening Security*.

Given the value that Nova Scotia places on its economic relationship with the United States and, in particular, the New England states, any measures that result in the thickening of the border is of concern to our government. So, I appreciate the work your organization has done to highlight and detail the problems that are being encountered by Canadian firms and businesses that must navigate the intricacies of the border on a daily basis. The issues raised by the Report have been discussed recently at various federal-provincial tables.

With respect to the Report's recommendations, I believe they are useful suggestions "to achieve a mutually beneficial balance between North American security and competitiveness". Of particular relevance is the Report's recommendation concerning Enhanced Drivers' Licenses (EDL) because there is work underway amongst officials of the four Atlantic governments to study the possible future use of EDL.

In closing, your Report is very timely given that there will be several instances in the next number of months for me to raise awareness of the identified issues with state governors and others whose interests are affected.

Once again, thank you for your letter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Rodney J. MacDonald".

Rodney J. MacDonald



PREMIER OF MANITOBA

Legislative Building
Winnipeg, Manitoba, CANADA
R3C 0V8

May 5, 2008

The Honourable Perrin Beatty
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Suite 420 - 360 Albert St
Ottawa ON K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for forwarding your comprehensive report, *Finding the Balance: Reducing Border Costs While Strengthening Security*.

Cross-border trade and tourism is essential to Manitoba's economy. In 2007, nearly \$19 billion CAD worth of goods were traded across the Manitoba-US border. We must find a workable solution that deals with safety and security concerns while minimizing the impact on legitimate cross-border activity, which - in the long run - is beneficial for all involved. Establishing a business-friendly environment in which prosperity may be maximized in a responsible and secure manner has long been a key goal of the Government of Manitoba.

To this end, we have been actively pursuing a number of measures that were recommended in your report. For example, Manitoba was an early supporter of the Enhanced Driver's Licence (EDL) concept, and we are working closely with several other provinces, the federal government, and American officials on our own Enhanced Identification Card and Enhanced Driver's Licence Program. We believe that this will prove to be an effective method of balancing border protection with convenience and cost, improving security and facilitating the flow of citizens across the border. We introduced legislation on May 1, 2008 to enable these border crossing cards to be introduced in Manitoba.

We share your concerns about the consequences of border thickening. At a time when there is particular concern about the strength of the global economy, efforts should be focused on improving North American cooperation and avoiding policies that disrupt our highly integrated economies. For example, Country-of-Origin Labeling (COOL) provisions have the potential to disrupt the North American meat trade and hurt producers on both sides of the border. We must ensure that industry stakeholders are not harmed by measures that are intended to address legitimate safety and security measures but which, in effect, act as non-tariff trade barriers.

While steadfastly committed to public safety and security, the Government of Manitoba wholly appreciates the need to minimize all negative economic effects of new security measures. Thank you again for sharing your report with me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gary Doer', written in a cursive style.

Gary Doer



ALBERTA
INTERNATIONAL AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS

*Deputy Premier
Office of the Minister*

April 14, 2008

Honourable Perrin Beatty, PC
President and Chief Executive Officer
The Canadian Chamber of Commerce
Suite 420
360 Albert Street
Ottawa, ON K1R 7X7

Dear Mr. Beatty:

Thank you for your letter dated March 14, 2008 to the Honourable Ed Stelmach, Premier together with a copy of the report *Finding the Balance: Reducing Border Costs While Strengthening Security*. Premier Stelmach asked that I respond on his behalf.

I am encouraged to see that this report was developed by the Canadian and US Chambers of Commerce in collaboration with members and other partner organizations. While both Canada and the US have legitimate security concerns, it is critical that we find ways to address these concerns without impairing the ability of Canadian and American manufacturers to compete successfully in the global market. Your report offers some insightful and practical solutions that address these complicated issues and I support your efforts.

You may be aware that Alberta and Montana participate in the Montana Alberta Bilateral Advisory Council, which is a forum for transboundary dialogue and cooperation between our two jurisdictions. A meeting is scheduled in May 2008 and a copy of your report will be provided to Montana Governor Brian Schweitzer prior to this meeting.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ron".

Ron Stevens, QC
Deputy Premier and Minister

Copy: Honourable Ed Stelmach
Premier