



# STATE OF MINNESOTA

## Office of Governor Mark Dayton

130 State Capitol ♦ 75 Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard ♦ Saint Paul, MN 55155

December 15, 2017

Executive Assistant Commissioner Todd C. Owen  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
1300 Pennsylvania Avenue Northwest  
Washington, DC 20004  
Attn: Office of Field Operations-HQS

Dear Executive Assistant Commissioner Todd C. Owen:

I have received notice of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) final decision to reduce hours of operation at the Lancaster and Roseau, Minnesota Ports of Entry (POE). As I stated in my letter dated November 7, 2017, I strongly oppose the reduction in hours and do not think it is the best decision for the people of Minnesota.

For this reason, I write in support of members of the Minnesotan congressional delegation's request to implement a pilot program at the Lancaster and Roseau POE's as an alternative operation plan. This program is backed with the support of Mayors Pelowski and Olson who too believe this is the best compromise for Minnesotans and CBP. The reasons outlined in the congressional delegation's letter dated December 13, 2017 are noteworthy and should elicit a reconsideration to delay the reduction in service hours until the pilot program can be launched.

I know that the feedback CBP staff heard at town hall meetings was appreciated and taken seriously and this pilot program is an opportunity to find common ground by addressing many of the concerns outlined by community members. The program would also assist with CBP's overall goal to optimize service in Minnesota.

I ask that you delay current plans and utilize the pilot program. I am prepared to work with CBP and the Minnesota congressional delegation to support this endeavor however I can.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Dayton".

Mark Dayton  
Governor

cc: Executive Director Colleen Manaher