

**Congress of the United States**  
Washington, DC 20510

March 7, 2022

The Honorable Alejandro Mayorkas  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
2707 Martin Luther King Jr Avenue, SE  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Mayorkas:

We write to express our deep concern regarding the recent implementation of COVID-19 vaccination requirements for travelers entering the United States and the detrimental impact this mandate will have on our nation's workers and supply chain.

As you know, on January 22, 2022, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) began requiring all non-U.S. citizens entering the United States through land ports and ferry terminals to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and to provide proof of vaccination.<sup>1</sup> These requirements apply to non-U.S. citizens who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons, including H-2A temporary agricultural workers and truck drivers.

Our nation is facing a major food supply chain crisis and worker shortage. Shelves in grocery stores remain empty, and the price of food continues to rise. For decades, agricultural employers who anticipate a shortage of domestic workers have brought nonimmigrant foreign workers to the U.S. to perform agricultural labor or services of a temporary or seasonal nature through the H-2A temporary agricultural program. Now that these H-2A workers are required to be fully vaccinated to enter the U.S., we have heard from numerous farmers and constituents who worry that these new vaccination requirements are delaying and will continue to delay the arrival of H-2A workers this year. These limitations and delays will have a catastrophic impact on our already fragile supply chain and proliferate rising food prices.

Although many employers have encouraged their employees to get vaccinated and many have even offered to help unvaccinated employees receive a vaccine, vaccine availability varies widely across Mexico. President Biden's original executive order, issued on October 25, 2021, allows for the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the Director of the Centers for

---

<sup>1</sup><https://www.dhs.gov/news/2022/01/20/dhs-require-non-us-individual-travelers-entering-united-states-land-ports-entry-and>

Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to make determinations for exemptions based on vaccine availability.<sup>2</sup> We urge you to work with HHS Secretary Xavier Becerra and CDC Director Rochelle Walensky to examine vaccine availability in Mexico to determine if this situation qualifies under Section 4, Subsection (v) of the Presidential Proclamation and allow for exemptions for these workers.

Furthermore, for purposes of travel to the U.S., the only vaccines accepted are those authorized for emergency use or approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) or the World Health Organization (WHO).<sup>3</sup> This means that some commonly available vaccines in Mexico, such as CanSino and Sputnik, will not be accepted, and these individuals will not be able to enter the U.S. to perform essential work. We are not in a position to turn away individuals who are vaccinated and want to work on American farms. As such, we strongly encourage you to reevaluate the list of permissible vaccines for travel to the U.S.

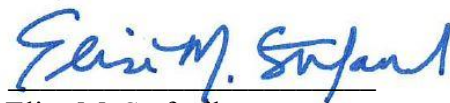
Additionally, this vaccine mandate applies to truck drivers who spent the last two years diligently working on the front lines to deliver essential goods and keep our economy open and moving. In March of 2020, DHS's Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) classified truck drivers as essential to the continued viability of our nation's infrastructure because trucking is an indispensable component of North American trade and the backbone of America's supply chain.<sup>4</sup> While in the midst of a global pandemic and supply chain crisis, we must ensure necessary cross-border operations to bring essential goods into the U.S. are unhindered and stabilized.

We call for you to provide employers and employees flexibility regarding the vaccine requirement, and we look forward to working with you to reach a solution that protects our borders, our workforce, and our supply chain. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Ralph Norman  
Member of Congress



Elise M. Stefanik  
Member of Congress

---

<sup>2</sup><https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/presidential-actions/2021/10/25/a-proclamation-on-advancing-the-safe-resumption-of-global-travel-during-the-covid-19-pandemic/>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/order-safe-travel/technical-instructions.html>

<sup>4</sup>[https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version\\_3.0\\_CISA\\_Guidance\\_on\\_Essential\\_Critical\\_Infrastructure\\_Workers\\_1.pdf](https://www.cisa.gov/sites/default/files/publications/Version_3.0_CISA_Guidance_on_Essential_Critical_Infrastructure_Workers_1.pdf)



Cliff Bentz  
Member of Congress



Jefferson Van Drew  
Member of Congress




María Elvira Salazar  
Member of Congress



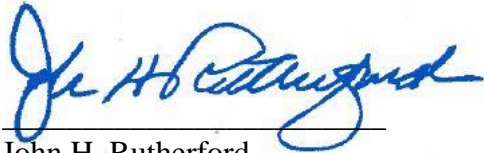
Jake LaTurner  
Member of Congress



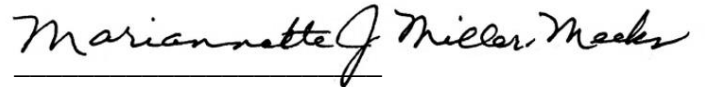
Pete Sessions  
Member of Congress



Bob Gibbs  
Member of Congress



John H. Rutherford  
Member of Congress



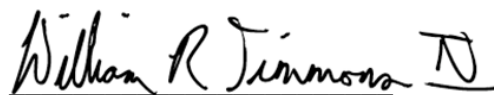
Mariannette Miller-Meeks, M.D.  
Member of Congress



Peter Meijer  
Member of Congress



Bill Huizenga  
Member of Congress



William R. Timmons, IV  
Member of Congress




Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
Member of Congress



---

Louie Gohmert  
Member of Congress



---

W. Gregory Steube  
Member of Congress



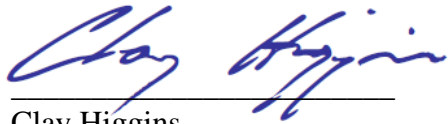
---

Austin Scott  
Member of Congress



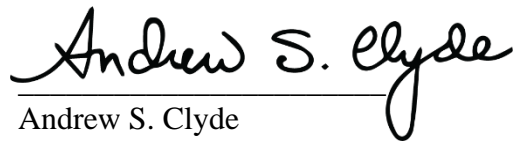
---

Byron Donalds  
Member of Congress



---

Clay Higgins  
Member of Congress




---

Andrew S. Clyde  
Member of Congress



---

Rick W. Allen  
Member of Congress



---

Scott Franklin  
Member of Congress



---

Carlos Gimenez  
Member of Congress



---

Ben Cline  
Member of Congress



---

Andy Harris, M.D.  
Member of Congress



---

Fred Upton  
Member of Congress



---

Chuck Fleischmann  
Member of Congress



---

James Comer  
Member of Congress




---

Kat Cammack  
Member of Congress



---

Madison Cawthorn  
Member of Congress



---

A. Drew Ferguson, IV  
Member of Congress



---

Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of Congress



---

Julia Letlow  
Member of Congress



---

David G. Valadao  
Member of Congress



---

August Pfluger  
Member of Congress



---

Joe Wilson  
Member of Congress