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8TH DISTRICT, MINNESOTA

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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-2308

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Faye Whitbeck  
President - International Falls Area Chamber of Commerce  
301 Second Avenue  
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Ms. Whitbeck,

Thank you for your correspondence regarding the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) proposal to examine the feasibility and costs of establishing a land border fee.

I agree that we should support proposals that encourage economic activity, not stifle it, as this proposal would do. For communities like International Falls, economic cooperation with Canada is central to local economic vitality. Every day, Canadians and Americans cross over to get to work, go to the doctor, run errands, attend a sports game, go to the theater, do their shopping, and much more. Efficient border crossings are essential in making these everyday activities as seamless as possible.

Congress has recognized that a border fee such as the one proposed by DHS would discourage these daily crossings, bringing adverse economic impacts to an area already hampered by border crossing decreases due to the global economic downturn. I am pleased language was inserted in the FY2014 Homeland Security Appropriations bill that prohibits funding to impose or to conduct any study relating to the implementation of a border crossing fee for pedestrians or passenger vehicles. While this language effectively blocks the DHS proposal in the House, perpetual budget uncertainty requires that additional efforts be made. To that end, several of my Northern Border Caucus colleagues and I have also cosponsored H.R.1886, the Promoting Border Commerce and Travel Act, which would prohibit DHS from imposing a border crossing fee on pedestrians and passenger vehicles at the U.S.-Canada border.

I hope this update addresses your concerns regarding the border fee proposal. I appreciate your advice and counsel on all matters of small business and commerce. Please be sure to let me know whenever I can be of assistance to you.

Sincerely,

Richard M. Nolan  
Member of Congress

CC: International Falls City Council, Mayor Bob Anderson  
Fort Frances Town Council, Mayor Roy Avis  
Koochiching County Board, Chair Kevin Adee