

# United States Senate

11 May, 2021

The Right Honorable Prime Minister Justin Trudeau  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A0A2

Dear Prime Minister Trudeau:

We again implore you and the Canadian agencies with authority over Canada's *Interim Order No. 5 Respecting Passenger Vessel Restrictions Due to the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19)* to reconsider the prohibition for passenger vessels in Canada's ports and waters. We understand that the pandemic continues to stress your health systems, and we respect your focus on the health and safety of the Canadian people. However, our Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has taken extensive measures to ensure that the cruise vessels sailing in U.S. waters this year will meet the highest safety and disease prevention standards. In fact, the CDC plans to issue all vessels that comply with every aspect of the guidance of a Conditional Sailing Certificate. This certificate will make it clear which ships have achieved extremely high levels of safety through robust testing, high vaccination rates, and robust contingency planning. We are confident that these certificated ships will present extremely low risk and will not cause any additional strain on the Canadian health care system.

We understand that Canada may not be able to lift the Interim Order altogether, so we request that you consider permitting exemptions under the order. Ideally, the exemption process would enable a passenger vessel with a CDC issued Conditional Sailing Certificate expedited review. A Conditional Sailing Certificate assures reduced risk and meets the desired intent of Canada's Interim Order. Additionally, a process to request review and approval for these exemption requests must be made clear in order for cruise ships to request an exemption. Therefore, we ask Canada to enable an exemption process, with the ability to expedite, for Conditional Sailing Certificated cruise ships.

To clarify, our ask is that these vessels be permitted to moor in Canadian ports for at least four hours and that Canadian Customs duly consider the vessel to be inspected during that time. We understand that passengers will not be permitted to go ashore during this stop. We hope that members of the United States administration will agree that suspending passenger shore excursions is prudent given the state of the pandemic, and the best way to respect your wishes while also meeting the needs of Alaska.

Lastly, we acknowledge that it is our own domestic laws that require this solution. While we have sought a temporary legislative fix to the domestic laws that require a port call in Canada, our long-term goal is to keep the system of mutually beneficial tourism between our two great nations intact. We believe that your acceptance of our proposed solution is preferable to any legislative fix that may disrupt that system.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and we welcome the opportunity to further discuss. We remain committed to working together to find mutually acceptable, safe solutions and opportunities despite the devastating pandemic.

Sincerely,



LISA MURKOWSKI  
United States Senator



DAN SULLIVAN  
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Omar Alhabra, Minister of Transport  
The Honorable Bill Blair, Minister of Public Safety  
The Honorable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health  
The Honorable Sandy Silver, Premier of Yukon  
The Honorable John Horgan, Premier of British Columbia  
Her Excellency Kirsten Hillman, Ambassador of Canada to the United States  
Ms. Katherine Brucker, Chargé d'Affaires of the United States to Canada