

# SUSPENSION

## A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED BY LEGISLATORS LORIGO, GREENE, TODARO, AND MILLS

**Re: Calling on the Federal Governments of Canada and the United States to Reopen the Border**

**WHEREAS**, in March 2020 all non-essential traffic between the United States and Canada was shut off to prevent the spread of COVID-19; and

**WHEREAS**, every thirty days that closure has been extended for over a year, with only limited travel exceptions available for purposes deemed essential by the federal government; and

**WHEREAS**, the health threat caused by COVID-19 currently remains, vaccination efforts in both countries are accelerating with the intended objective of having at least one vaccine dose available for all adults in both countries by summer. Currently, the U.S. has over 130 million residents fully vaccinated; and

**WHEREAS**, the border closure continues to have an incredible social and economic impact on the communities that are located along it like Erie County, including spouses, children and other loved ones who remain separated from each other; and

**WHEREAS**, the US and Canada share the longest undefended border in the world and we are one of their largest trade partners. Allowing the resumption of the unfettered movement of goods and people across our joint border is in the best interests of residents both here in the U.S. and in Canada; and

**WHEREAS**, President Biden has signed an executive order directing the U.S. work alongside the Canadian and Mexican governments to plan for the eventual withdrawal of existing land border restrictions, and

**WHEREAS**, Erie County's closest Canadian municipality, Fort Erie Ontario, recently passed a similar resolution asking for the U.S. and Canadian federal governments to work together to provide a plan for reopening the border. This honorable body wishes to echo that sentiment by calling on U.S. officials to engage their Canadian counterparts to allow for a swift reopening of the US-Canada border.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body hereby requests that Canadian and US officials work together to formulate whatever plan is necessary to permit the safe full reopening of the US-Canada border to all traffic; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this honorable body further requests that the US government provide transparency on the steps and metrics necessary to reopen the border and whether any phasing is necessary; and, be it further

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**RESOLVED**, if the US and Canadian governments are unable to safely reopen our border swiftly, both governments should make an effort to facilitate the cross-border vaccination of Canadian residents using excess U.S. supply; and, be it further

**RESOLVED**, that a certified copy of this resolution be sent to President Biden, the United States Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, Representatives Brian Higgins and Chris Jacobs, Senators Chuck Schumer and Kristen Gillibrand, Prime Minister Justin Trudeau, the Fort Erie Council, and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution