



May 4, 2023

The Honorable Greg Abbott
Governor
P.O. Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711-2428

Dear Governor Abbott:

The Border Trade Alliance writes to you for the third time in 13 months to register our strong opposition to the Texas Department of Public Safety's duplicative and costly inspections of commercial vehicles entering Texas from Mexico. As we wrote to you in April 2022 and December 2022, this inspection scheme leads to severe backups and congestion around ports of entry and in border communities, and it harms already strained supply chains.

We do not disagree that Texas has an important role to play at its border with Mexico, including ensuring truck safety and code compliance, for example. But your administration is engaged in a new inspection model that is dramatically slowing the movement of freight and putting upward pressure on consumer prices amid already high inflation.

Texas should work in collaboration with the Department of Homeland Security, not go it alone. Customs and Border Protection's work at the land border ports of entry is informed by highly attuned risk assessment models, intelligence gathering, and a commitment to the agency's dual mission of enforcement and facilitation. Your administration should strive to be a partner in that effort, not a hindrance.

Your administration announced last year agreements with your southern neighbors that would end the enhanced inspections. While we remain dubious of the utility of the inspections, we will always applaud cross-border cooperation. This latest round of inspections risks harm to the working relationship between Texas and its Mexican neighbors at a time when it is needed most.

We reiterate the message we have conveyed in our previous letters: The BTA understands and shares the frustrations of border state governors over the federal government's management of the border, but DPS enhanced inspections of commercial vehicles are causing more harm than good. The inspections are duplicative and are causing expensive delays. They should stop immediately.

Sincerely,

Britton Mullen
President

Lance Jungmeyer
Chairman

CC: Department of Public Safety Director Steve McCraw