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Governor Mike Dunleavy  
STATE OF ALASKA

August 27, 2020

The Honorable Bill Blair  
Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness  
269 Laurier Avenue West  
Ottawa, Canada K1A 0P8

Via Email: [ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca](mailto:ps.ministerofpublicsafety-ministredelasecuritepublique.sp@canada.ca)

Dear Minister Blair:

I am supportive of recognizing Stewart, British Columbia and Hyder, Alaska as “integrated trans-border communities” that would allow local residents of Hyder and Stewart to travel across the border without a mandatory quarantine or daily crossing limits. I am aware of a letter from the Hyder, AK and Stewart, BC COVID-19 Action Committee to you making this request. I realize your obligation is first and foremost to the safety of Canadian citizens, as it should be, but I am hopeful that you will take this proposal under special consideration.

This proposal makes sense while still protecting the health and well-being of the residents of both Hyder and Stewart. It is reassuring that Hyder and Stewart have had no documented cases of COVID-19 in both communities, and also that the 63 residents of Hyder are committed to adhering to all COVID-19 protocols of the Province of British Columbia. Hyder is unique among Alaska communities because it is connected to the road system accessible only through Canada. No other community in Alaska is similarly situated.

Winter is coming and we know this pandemic will continue for a while. Allowing these communities to integrate will ease feelings of isolation among Hyder residents. Businesses, friends, and family span the borders of these communities and Hyder on its own has very few amenities, including no cellular service.

As you consider this request, one thing I will ask of Hyder residents is to show the utmost respect to our Canadian neighbors if this request is granted. We expect Hyder residents to only visit Stewart and not travel further into Canada unless permission is obtained to do so, in accordance with the travel rules for all U.S. citizens entering Canada.

We hope you will consider this hardship and make accommodations that you deem reasonable while still protecting the health and safety of both communities.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Dunleavy".

Mike Dunleavy  
Governor