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April 12, 2022

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

Dear Governor Abbott,

I write to urge you to rescind your recent unprecedented expansion of Operation Lone Star requiring Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) inspections for every commercial vehicle at all ports of entry. This action will fail to stem immigration to our border and has already disrupted trade and exacerbated supply chain challenges.

Subjecting commercial traffic to an additional, unnecessary state inspection after a federal inspection at ports of entry in Texas is a waste of time and resources. These inspections have reportedly caused 10-to-20-hour delays and effectively halted traffic at the Pharr-Reynosa International Bridge, the number one conduit for fresh produce imports in the nation and a key hub for electronics and components trade. A recent study conducted by Texas A&M found that imported fresh produce from Mexico employs approximately 8,000 Texans and contributes \$850 million to our state's economy. Your actions have thus far held up \$30 million of produce according to the Texas International Produce Association.

As you well know, our nation is currently facing unprecedented supply chain challenges following the COVID-19 pandemic. These redundancies will harm Texans and the Texas economy. Now is the time to bolster American competitiveness and lower the price of goods, not create new problems.

I share your concerns with the heightened risk of human trafficking, smuggling, and a migration surge that has the potential to overwhelm South Texas yet again. However, I cannot condone grandstanding and unnecessary delays in the name of border security. If you are serious about supporting border communities, businesses, and taking the cartel element out of migration, I invite you work with me and my colleagues in Washington to implement real solutions.

I urge you to end this misguided protocol, reinstate normal commercial inspection procedures, and work with the federal government to develop humane and orderly processes for migrants arriving at our Southern border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'VG' followed by a stylized flourish.

Vicente Gonzalez
Member of Congress