

Congress of the United States  
Washington, DC 20510

October 15, 2010

The Honorable Janet Napolitano  
Secretary  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

We are writing to share with you public comments in support of keeping the Morses Line Port-of-Entry open that were presented at a community meeting in Franklin, Vermont, on September 25, 2010.

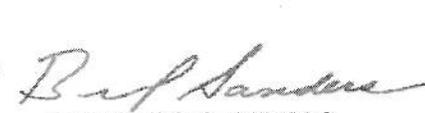
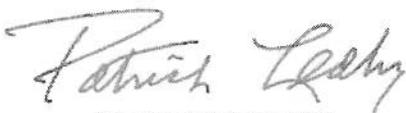
We understand the Department of Homeland Security's decision to begin down the path towards port closure at Morses Line was based on the considerable security deficiencies at the current facility, the proposed use of eminent domain to secure land for a new facility, and the opinions expressed at the public meeting on May 22, 2010. However, since your decision was announced on June 3, 2010, there has been an overwhelming outpouring of support from the local community for maintaining the border crossing.

While the enclosed comments have come after the May 22<sup>nd</sup> public meeting, we believe they reflect a sincere and constructive effort by many in the community to assess, quantify, and describe the value of maintaining a border crossing at Morses Line. This is just a sampling of the views expressed to us over the past four months by citizens on both sides of the border about the economic and cultural importance of the port.

We are mindful that facilitating cross-border travel and trade must be carefully balanced with ensuring the nation's security. The past nine years have seen dramatic changes in the way America protects its borders, and aging ports like Morses Line must be upgraded to meet the national-security needs of the 21st Century. We appreciate the hard work you and the entire Department of Homeland Security do to balance all of these complex issues.

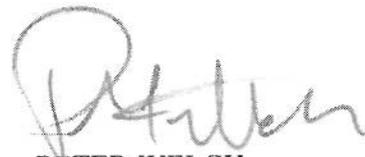
As your agency continues to study the future of the Morses Line Port-of-Entry, we trust you will carefully consider these additional comments and work with the community as they explore options for fashioning a feasible and effective plan to keep the border crossing open while making the necessary security upgrades.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator

BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator



PETER WELCH  
United States Representative