

**Congress of the United States**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

November 3, 2011

Border Security Regulations Branch  
Office of International Trade  
Customs and Border Protection  
Regulations and Rulings  
Attention: Border Security Regulations Branch  
799 9th Street, NW., 5th Floor  
Washington, DC 20229-1179

To Whom It May Concern:

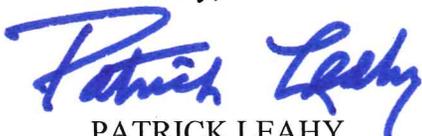
We write in response to the Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) issued by United States Customs and Border Protection seeking public comment to evaluate the potential closure of the Morses Line border crossing (Docket No.: USCBP-2011-0016). We request that you give all due consideration to the strong community support for keeping open the Morses Line Port of Entry (POE) in Franklin, Vermont.

Morses Line POE provides a critical link between Québec and Vermont where a strong border economy and culture exist. There, communities connected by the port conduct daily, cross-border commerce that supports the small business and farming operations critical to the region's economy. Recreation and tourism, strong economic drivers in this area, are enhanced by the ability to cross the border at Morses Line. Cultural and familial ties in this region are strong and provide the foundation for vibrant, mutually-dependent communities on each side of the border.

Every Port of Entry should be equipped with the tools Customs and Border Protection deems necessary to conduct its security mission. Should the agency agree that the Morses Line Border Port of Entry remain open, we understand the Port must be modernized to meet national security needs, an effort that likely requires the acquisition of additional property. We are confident the communities of Highgate and Franklin will work with the agency to help it find practical solutions to these imperatives. During a June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011, meeting in Vermont between Customs and Border Protection officials and representatives of the Highgate and Franklin communities, several low-impact port construction alternatives were discussed that met the needs of Customs and Border Protection and the needs of the community.

Morses Line is a small border crossing that serves fewer than one hundred vehicles daily. But to communities across northwestern Vermont, it represents significant commercial opportunity and a connection long valued by people on each side. We support an open Border Port of Entry at Morses Line that meets the needs of your agency and that serves the needs of these communities. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



PATRICK LEAHY  
United States Senator



BERNARD SANDERS  
United States Senator



PETER WELCH  
United States Representative