



March 19, 2026

Dear Ms. Muirhead,

As the Mayor of Nogales, Arizona, I first-hand see the impact of the extended border closure to the community I represent. The USDA's blanket "New World Screwworm" policy resulting in and the extended closure of the U.S.-Mexico ports has resulted in significant revenue loss to our community.

Not only has this closure hurt livestock businesses based in Nogales, but the city is experiencing a sharp decline in municipal revenue. When the flow of cattle stops, so does the commerce associated with the cattle industry. We are seeing a direct loss in sales tax revenue from the fuel, equipment, and supplies no longer being purchased by cross-border traders. Furthermore, our hotel occupancy tax receipts have plummeted as cattle brokers, inspectors, and truckers are forced elsewhere.

This loss of indirect sales through restaurants and other stores is damaging because these transactions are what create and sustain jobs in our local service and retail sectors. Every day these ports remain closed, the economic footprint of Nogales shrinks, putting the livelihoods of our hardworking residents at risk.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jorge Maldonado", is written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive.

Jorge Maldonado, Mayor

Mayor Jorge Maldonado

City of Nogales, Arizona