

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

April 3, 2024

Ms. Diane Sabatino  
Executive Assistant Commissioner  
Field Operations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
1300 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20229

Dear Executive Assistant Commissioner Sabatino,

We write to again urge the Department of Homeland Security to return the Porthill Port of Entry hours to 7:00 a.m. until 11:00 p.m, which existed prior to the pandemic and parallels the current operating hours at the Canadian port.

As the closest border crossing for Bonners Ferry, Idaho, and Creston, British Columbia, Porthill plays a critical role in facilitating the flow of workers, tourists, and families across our border. It is also a key crossing for members of the Kootenai Tribe of Idaho, whose ancestral homeland is bisected by the international border.

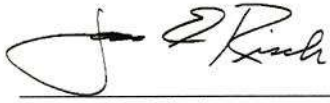
While we appreciate CBP's partial restoration of Porthill's hours from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., the economic and community needs of North Idaho would be best served by moving the closing hour to 11:00 p.m. in order to correspond with the Canadian port-of-entry, Port Rykerts. The current disjunction in hours between the two ports creates hardship for residents on both sides of the border.

In public hearings the General Services Administration conducted regarding the expansion of the facilities at Porthill, Idahoans regularly urge the restoration of hours, and many have expressed confusion as to the reasoning for expanding the facilities to accommodate increased traffic, yet crossing hours remain reduced due to ostensibly decreased traffic. We echo these residents' confusion.

While we understand CBP sees pre-pandemic crossing levels as justification for the hours, we urge CBP to consider that, after more than two years of the border being closed or re-opened on a limited basis, residents of both the U.S. and Canada will be slow to resume their traditional patters of cross-border travel. Exacerbating these reduced hours is likely the fact that the signs leading to Porthill from Bonners Ferry continue to list the incorrect closing hours as 5:00 p.m.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter. We look forward to hearing a response from you no later than 30 days from receiving this letter.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of James E. Risch in black ink.

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James E. Risch  
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Mike Crapo in blue ink.

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Mike Crapo  
United States Senator

Handwritten signature of Russ Fulcher in blue ink.

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Russ Fulcher  
United States Congressman