

November 13, 2009

The Hon. Peter Van Loan P.C., M.P.  
Minister  
Public Safety Canada  
269 Laurier Ave West  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0P8

Dear Minister:

In October, the Canadian Chamber of Commerce concluded its 80<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting (AGM) in Victoria. A major highlight of the Chamber's AGM is the Policy Session. It is during the Policy Session that resolutions submitted by local chambers of commerce and boards of trade from across Canada are debated and voted on by accredited delegates. Once approved, these resolutions become policy of the Canadian Chamber for the following three years. In 2009, our delegates issued a clear and decisive national policy mandate that we intend to pursue vigorously with the federal government over the coming months.

Beyond the issues we have already brought to your attention, our renewed national policy mandate includes a number of additional issues that fall within your portfolio. Accordingly, we would like to discuss these with you directly in the near future.

**Canada Border Services Agency Cost Recovery Fee for Services**

Increasingly we are seeing the 'thickening' of the border, often based on unnecessary barriers erected on a premise of security. The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) cost recovery fee for service is having a devastating effect on businesses. At a time when we are seeing increased competition from ports in the United States, this new cost will further erode the competitiveness of Canadian ports to act as gateways for international trade. We recommend that the federal government through the CBSA continue the escalation of its Core Service review process for all transportation modes to ensure that service and efficiency levels are maintained.

**Nexus Pass Appeal**

The Nexus Pass was created to facilitate the movement of trusted travelers across the border .Unfortunately there have been problems with the program including with the appeal process for revoked passes. The Canadian Chamber recommends that the federal governments set up an effective appeal process, which could include an independent review, for the assessment of seizure of NEXUS passes, the goal being to deal with the possible return of the cards as soon as is possible.

Should you wish to discuss these issues further, I would be pleased to do so.

Sincerely,

Perrin Beatty  
President and Chief Executive Officer

Attachments

c.c. William Baker, Deputy Minister, Public Safety Canada