



PORTS-TO-PLAINS ALLIANCE

Securing the Benefits of Commerce to
North America's Energy & Agricultural Heartland

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Ports-to-Plains Pleased to See Port Hours Restored

“The Ports-to-Plains Alliance is very pleased that Customs and Border Protection reversed their earlier decision to reduce the hours of service at the Port of Raymond,” said Ports-to-Plains President Michael Reeves. “As soon as we heard about the plans to reduce the hours of service, we contacted our legislators and let them know how important it is to maintain 24-hour operations.”

CBP had announced last month that beginning Dec. 27 that instead of remaining open around the clock, it would close between midnight and 8 a.m. That would mean there would be more than 400 miles between the nearest remaining 24-hour ports of entry at Sweetgrass, MT and Portal, ND.

The Port of Raymond is located at the northern end of the Theodore Roosevelt Expressway, part of the Ports-to-Plains Alliance Corridor. The ports of entry serving the Ports-to-Plains corridors in Montana and North Dakota are serving a growing value of goods moving between the U.S. and Canada. Between 2004 and 2014 the value of goods moving by truck from the ten state Ports-to-Plains region through these ports have grown by 162 percent. Value of goods moving by truck through the Port of Raymond from the same region has grown 160 percent in the same period with exports increasing 455 percent.

Reduced hours of service would have impacted business on both sides of the border, who would be forced to run the risk of missing the closing time for the crossing and being forced to wait eight hours for it to open, or reroute several miles and hours to ensure crossing at a 24 hour port.

“We are happy to see CBP listen to the users of this port about its importance and the benefits it provides to Montana and businesses and communities much further away on both sides of the border,” said Reeves.

Ports-to-Plains is a grassroots alliance of over 275 communities and businesses, including alliance partners Heartland Expressway, Theodore Roosevelt Expressway and Eastern Alberta Trade Corridor Coalition, whose mission is to advocate for a robust international transportation infrastructure to promote economic security and prosperity throughout North America's energy and agricultural heartland including Mexico to Canada. Additional information on the Ports-to-Plains Alliance is available at <http://www.portstoplains.com/>.

