

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

March 10, 2022

The Honorable Joseph R. Biden
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

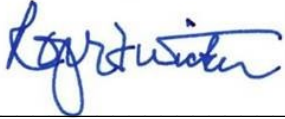
We write in support of your efforts to return the country to normal, as you expressed in your State of the Union Address. As part of that return to normal, we strongly encourage you to focus on sectors of the economy that have been heavily impacted by the pandemic, including the travel industry. We believe current travel restrictions in place should be phased out, allowed to expire, or eliminated altogether. Lifting these restrictions is supported by the science, in particular the significant decline in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations coupled with ever-increasing vaccination rates.

Countries around the world have been ending pre-departure testing requirements for international travel, yet these are still in place for travel to the United States. These requirements discourage travel and hinder the full economic recovery that would result from face-to-face meetings linked to the travel and tourism industries. With COVID-19 levels declining around the world and vaccines and treatments readily available, pre-departure testing requirements are no longer necessary.

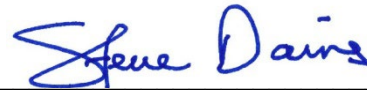
Additionally, with the federal mask mandate for travel set to expire on March 18, 2022, we believe it is time for the Administration to give serious consideration to letting the mandate expire in order to return travel to normal. Air travel in particular has proven safe without mask wearing, given the HEPA filters and constant recirculation of air in airplane cabins. Additionally, more than 75 percent of reports of unruly passengers have been linked to mask mandate compliance. Ending this unnecessary mandate would lead to a safer and more pleasant travel experience for passengers and air crew alike.

We strongly support your goal of returning the country to normal, and we encourage your Administration to reduce or eliminate travel restrictions to help achieve your goal.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



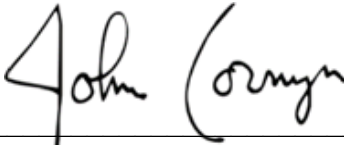
Steve Daines
United States Senator



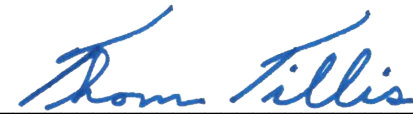
Richard Burr
United States Senator



Kevin Cramer
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Thom Tillis
United States Senator



Mike Crapo
United States Senator



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



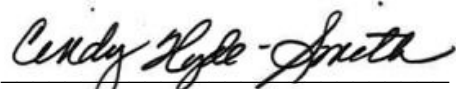
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United States Senator



Dan Sullivan
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Cindy Hyde-Smith
United States Senator



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Rick Scott
United States Senator



Michael S. Lee
United States Senator



James E. Risch
United States Senator



Mike Braun
United States Senator



Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



James Lankford
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Marco Rubio
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Cynthia M. Lummis
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Todd Young
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John Hoeven
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Lindsey O. Graham
United States Senator



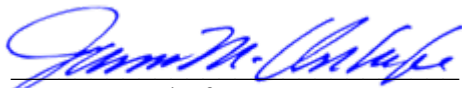
Roger Marshall, M.D.
United States Senator



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Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator



James M. Inhofe
United States Senator