

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-1905

June 21, 2013

Lock Kiermaier
16 Court Street
Augusta, ME 04330-5607

Dear Lock,

I share your concern about charging fees to folks crossing the U.S.-Canada land border. As you mentioned in your message, there is great economic benefit to both Mainers and Canadians in their ability to move easily (and freely) between the two countries. To be clear, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) which oversees U.S. Customs and Border Patrol, proposed studying the feasibility of collecting a crossing fee at land border crossings, they did not actually propose a fee.

While I believe DHS was well-intentioned in looking for ways to off-set the operational costs of border crossing facilities and officers, and I am aware that crossing fees have long been collected at air and sea ports of entry, I am concerned that DHS did not fully appreciate the effect that such a fee might have the economies of near-border communities. For that reason, I signed letters to both DHS and the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee that oversees DHS's budget which recommended against any effort to study or implement a land border crossing fee. In May, Senator Leahy of Vermont proposed an amendment to the immigration bill that would explicitly prohibit land border crossing fees which I plan on supporting if and when I have the opportunity to vote on it. Thanks for taking the time to write me on this important issue to Maine border communities.

Best Regards,



ANGUS S. KING, JR.
United States Senator

ASK/pb