



Bi-National Committee



## Joint Statement of Concern: US-Mexico Port of Entry Closures

The President and CEO of the El Paso Chamber, David Jerome, and Rogelio Gonzalez of the cross-border counterpart CANACO in Ciudad Juarez, stand united in their concern about recent comments from Washington, DC in regard to closing ports of entry between the United States and Mexico.

Daily trade and movement of people are at the very heart of cross-border communities such as El Paso and Ciudad Juarez and represent the essence of global interdependence and economic progress. Any attempt to close the ports of entry will result in a financial disruption of \$180 to \$220 million, daily, will create chaos for people crossing for education and livelihood, and fundamentally will alter the interactions between two major trading partners. The El Paso Chamber and CANACO think the short-term damage would be significant and further consider that the longer-term impact will result in long term economic uncertainty and in a retrenchment of political, economic, and social interactions between El Paso and Ciudad Juarez, the state of Texas and Chihuahua, and between the United States and Mexico.

The Chamber and CANACO recognize the need to maintain security and sovereignty along the border and champion the various law enforcement entities that continue to make El Paso one of the safest cities on the US-Mexico border. However, it is in the spirit of supporting and reaffirming these entities along with dynamic, border control policy that the Chamber and CANACO would urge the President and Congressional leaders to stay the course of maintaining open, controlled ports of entry.

The Chamber and CANACO are committed to being involved in any policy discussions that arise in regard to economic flows across the US-Mexico border and stand ready to



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offer policy research, infrastructure insight and even physical space for stakeholders to come together and address concerns along the US-Mexico border. As the premier hub for connecting, coaching, advocating and innovating in El Paso, the El Paso Chamber joins its counterpart CANACO to reaffirm the need to maintain open ports of entry now and in the future.

Carlos Castaneda  
Director  
Juarez Chamber of Commerce

David Jerome  
President & CEO  
El Paso Chamber