



# BESTT Coalition

Business for Economic Security, Trade and Tourism Coalition of the US & Canada

American Immigration Lawyers Association (DC)  
Bay Ferries (PEI)  
**Bellingham/Whatcom (WA) Chamber of Commerce & Industry**  
Binational Tourism Alliance (rep. US & Canada)  
Black Ball Transport (WA & BC)  
British Columbia Council of Tourism Associations (COTA)  
**Buffalo Niagara Partnership (NY)**  
Business & Industry Association of New Hampshire  
Calgary Chamber of Commerce (AB)  
Canadian Chamber of Commerce (ON)  
City of Port Angeles (WA)  
**Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce (MI)**  
Fairmont Hotels & Resorts  
Frontier Duty Free Association (ON)  
Greater Portsmouth (NH) Chamber of Commerce  
Hotel Association of Greater Victoria (BC)  
Jay Peak Resort (VT)  
Kenmore Air (WA)  
Lake of the Woods (MN) Tourism Bureau/Chamber of Commerce  
Lake Champlain (VT) Regional Chamber of Commerce  
Niagara USA Chamber (NY)  
North Olympic Peninsula (WA) Visitors & Convention Bureau  
Northern BC Tourism Association  
Northwest Angle (MN) Chamber  
Northwest Angle (MN) and Islands Land Owners Association  
North Western Ontario Business Partnership  
Maverick Coach Lines (BC)  
Maverick Vacations Ltd. (BC)  
Michigan Health & Hospital Association  
Pacific Corridor Enterprise Council (PACE)  
Pacific Gold Tours (BC)  
Pacific NorthWest Economic Region (PNWER)  
Plattsburgh-North Country (NY) Chamber of Commerce  
Port Angeles (WA) Chamber of Commerce  
Port of Seattle (WA)  
Queen's Landing Inn & Conference Resort (ON)  
Seattle Chamber of Commerce (WA)  
Student & Youth Travel Association (SYTA) (MI)  
Tourism Richmond (BC)  
Tourism Vancouver (BC)  
Tourism Victoria (BC)  
Vermont Chamber of Commerce  
Vermont Convention Bureau  
Vermont Department of Tourism and Marketing  
Victoria Clipper (WA)  
Victoria Express (WA)  
Victoria San Juan Cruises (WA)  
VISIT CANADA (NH)  
Wells Gray Tours (BC)  
Watertown-North Country Chamber of Commerce, Greater (NY)  
Windsor (ON) & District Chamber of Commerce

24 May 2006

The Honorable Norm Coleman  
United State Senate  
320 Senate Hart Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Coleman

On behalf of the membership of the BESTT Coalition, I am writing to offer our support for SA 4167, and amendment to the Immigration Bill, S. 2611.

The Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI), as it is currently being implemented, has the potential to create tremendous economic and cultural hardships along the longest undefended border in the world. Americans and Canadians are, in many respects, one people, sharing economic, family, social and cultural ties unlike any other two nations on the planet.

Your efforts, through SA 4167, to address these concerns and provide a clear path toward both open and secure borders are very much appreciated by the coalition, and by the millions of Americans and Canadians who cross the border every year.

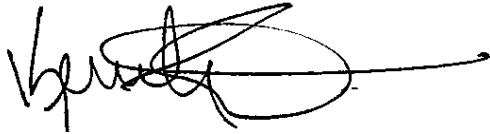
We are especially pleased that you have included a mechanism by which state drivers' licenses, through the changes under the Real-ID Act, could be used as a means of demonstrating ones identification at the border. The potential for Real-ID to provide a safer, more effective, and far less expensive means of accessing the border is substantial, and must be fully reviewed.

In addition, we believe that Real-ID will provide the greatest chance of reciprocity with our Canadian brethren, who are currently not planning on issuing a PASS-type card, but are interested in looking into the potential of Real-ID to meet the requirements of WHTI.

*Letter to Senator Coleman*  
*24 May 2006*  
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Again, we thank you for your support in finding a way to ensure our border is secure which maintaining the free and fair flow of trade on which Americans and Canadians rely. Please feel free to let us know if there is anything we can do to be of assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "V. H. ...", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

BESTT Coalition of the US and Canada  
President/CEO – Bellingham/Whatcom Chamber of Commerce & Industry