

PROPOSED BY: Executive

INTRODUCTION DATE: October 12, 2021

RESOLUTION NO. _____

**REQUEST FOR A PRESIDENTIAL EXECUTIVE ORDER TO OPEN THE BORDER
TO ALLOW ACCESS TO CANADIAN PROPERTY OWNER IN POINT ROBERTS
USA**

WHEREAS, Point Roberts, Washington, is a 5-square mile exclave in the northwest corner of Whatcom County that is bordered on three sides by water and the Canadian border to the north; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the restriction of discretionary travel starting in March 2020, the exclave of Point Roberts has been severely impacted by the inability of Canadian property owners to enter Point Roberts through the Point Roberts/Boundary Bay border crossing; and,

WHEREAS, approximately 75% of residences in Point Roberts are owned by Canadian nationals who have been unable to access these residences since March 2020; and,

WHEREAS, these Canadian property owners continue to pay property taxes to Whatcom County on their residences, as well as monthly charges for water service and refuse disposal, which they are unable to use due to their restricted access to Point Roberts through the U.S. border crossing; and,

WHEREAS, the livelihoods of the remaining 25% property owner, who are US Citizens permanently residing in Point Roberts, has been negatively impacted because of lack of economic activity generated by cross-border travel; and,

WHEREAS, the closure of businesses and curtailing of economic activity in Point Roberts has severely diminished the quality of life of permanent residents and threatened their ability to access essential goods and services; and,

WHEREAS, Canadian property owners have been working for over a year with elected officials on both sides of the border to establish standards for safe and efficient passage into Point Roberts and these border protocols can be implemented immediately when they receive the endorsement of the U.S. government; and,

WHEREAS, the proposal for "narrow and tailored exceptions" for border crossings into Point Roberts by Canadian property owners was set forth by U.S. Senator Patty Murray in a speech on the Senate floor on September 23, 2021; and,

WHEREAS; allowing Canadian property owners vehicular access to Point Roberts through the

U.S. border crossing for the purposes of attending to their properties fits the criteria for a "narrow and tailored exception" and will allow property owners to repair and maintain their homes, which have been neglected for the past 18 months; and

WHEREAS, Canada has allowed Americans in Point Roberts to cross at the Boundary Bay border into Tsawwassen, B.C. since August 6, 2021 and a similar policy would be a fair, practical and compassionate solution for both jurisdictions;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Whatcom County Council endorses these "narrow and tailored" exceptions for Canadian property owners to enter Point Roberts and requests Washington lawmakers, including our Congressional delegation and Governor, to request President Biden to sign an Executive Order, allowing Canadian property owners vehicular access to Point Roberts, Washington, providing they meet the standards now in place for air and water access.

APPROVED this _____ day of _____, 2021

WHATCOM COUNTY COUNCIL

ATTEST:

WHATCOM COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Dana Brown-Davis,
Clerk of the Council

Barry Buchanan,
Council Chair

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Civil Deputy Prosecutor