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June 10, 2021

Xavier Becerra, Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Becerra,

I am writing to follow up on the attached letter from the Arizona Border Counties Coalition. They are requesting permission to donate vaccination doses that are near expiration date, and may otherwise be wasted, to neighboring communities along the U.S.-Mexico border.

As you are aware, COVID-19 will not be fully controlled until there is a complete and coordinated global response. Until that time, we are likely to face endemics, possibly in our country, and certainly in other countries that lack access to vaccinations. If COVID-19 continues to widely circulate in communities that connect with our international borders, then the risk to my constituents in these border communities will persist.

It was recently reported that the administration is forming working groups to determine if it is safe enough to re-open borders for non-essential business. This is an action I encouraged, as businesses and communities in my district have been uniquely harmed by both the pandemic and the border closures. Undoubtedly, vaccination rates will be a critical component of the decision-making process.

For these reasons, I encourage you to approve their request by providing needed authorization, resources, and any guidance necessary to make sure border communities can seamlessly and safely transfer resources, including vaccinations, as needed.

I thank you for your consideration and offer my office's assistance in coordination where we can be helpful.

Sincerely,



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Enclosed: Arizona Border Counties Coalition Letter