

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 21, 2018

The Honorable Kirstjen M. Nielsen
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Secretary Nielsen:

We write to you in support of Australia's participation in U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) Global Entry Program. Expanding Global Entry's expedited clearance process to pre-approved visitors from Australia, a longtime ally of the United States, will help demonstrate our country's commitment to the Indo-Pacific region while enhancing our bilateral security and economic partnership.

Australia's inclusion in Global Entry would not only provide its passport holders with a smoother visit to the U.S., but would also help to make our country safer by enhancing bilateral law enforcement cooperation. Since Australia has met the high security standards needed to participate in the Visa Waiver Program, Australian visitors to our country are already vetted and pre-approved through the Electronic System for Travel Authorization. With Global Entry, only after rigorous scrutiny and clearance by both countries will approved travelers be extended expedited entry into the United States through automatic kiosks at U.S. airports. These procedures would further enhance security-related information sharing at a time when the threats our countries face are increasingly global in nature. Therefore, expansion of Global Entry to Australia will promote even closer security cooperation with the Australian authorities, which can help CBP to direct its resources toward higher-risk, unknown travelers and enforcement.

Visitors from Australia have made a significant contribution to the U.S. economy. According to the U.S. Travel Association, travel is the number one U.S. industry export to Australia, accounting for 13 percent of all exports to the country. In 2017, the U.S. welcomed approximately 1.3 million Australian visitors who spent \$8.6 billion, ranking Australia among the top ten largest markets for U.S. travel and tourism exports according to the U.S. Department of Commerce. With the U.S. currently capturing just over 10 percent of the outbound Australian travel market, there is enormous growth potential. As a country, we can do more to attract these visitors and Global Entry membership is an important way to welcome them.

December 2018 marks the third anniversary since Australia extended its SmartGate Program to U.S. citizens. Expanding reciprocal benefits to Australian travelers through Global Entry would strengthen our security and economic ties. We strongly support Australia's membership in CBP's Global Entry program and urge that efforts towards this goal be accelerated. We also request an update on your engagement with your Australian counterparts on this issue.

Sincerely,



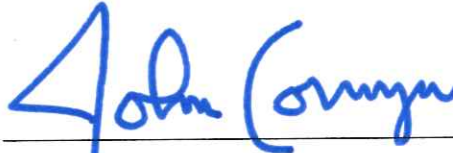
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United States Senator



CORY GARDNER
United States Senator



CHARLES E. SCHUMER
United States Senator



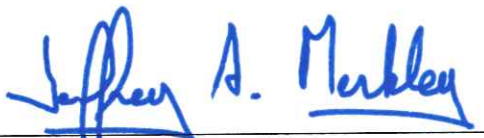
JOHN CORNYN
United States Senator



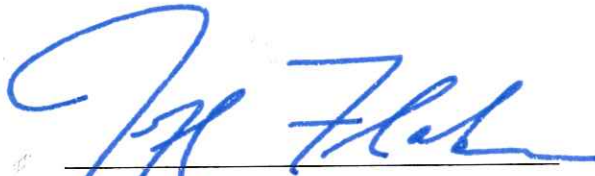
RICHARD J. DURBIN
United States Senator



STEVE DAINES
United States Senator



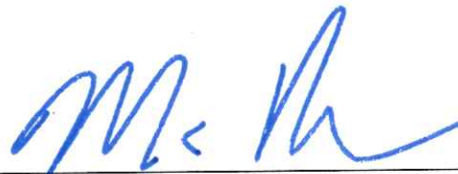
JEFFREY A. MERKLEY
United States Senator



JEFF FLAKE
United States Senator

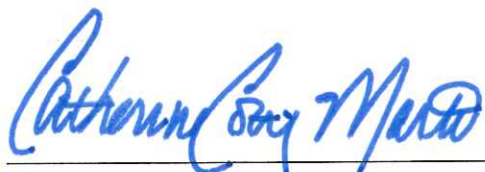


DIANNE FEINSTEIN
United States Senator



MARCO RUBIO
United States Senator

CC: Michael R. Pompeo, Secretary of State



CATHERINE CORTEZ-MASTO

United States Senator



JAMES M. INHOFE

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United States Senator



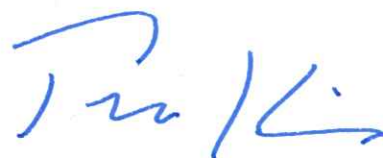
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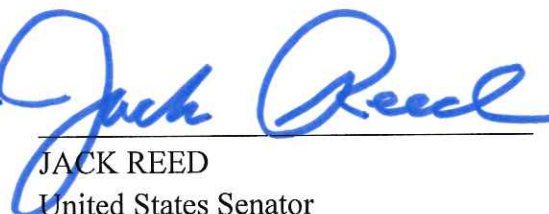
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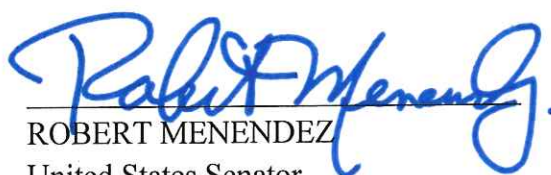
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United States Senator



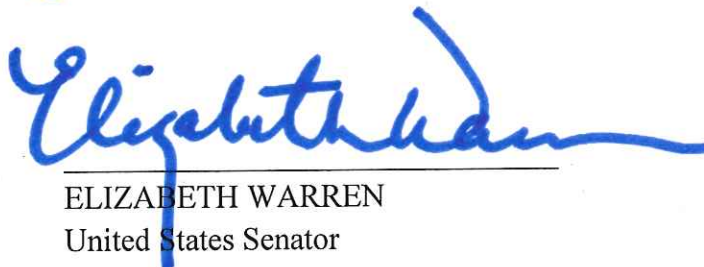
JACK REED

United States Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ

United States Senator



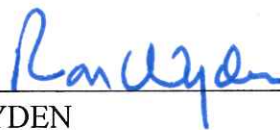
ELIZABETH WARREN

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