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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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May 19, 2008

TO: Members of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation

FROM: Nadine Nosal, Legislative Coordinator, UAW Michigan CAP

SUBJECT: Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC)

The International Union, UAW represents over 400,000 active and retired members and their families in both the private and public sectors throughout Michigan.

The UAW supports the Detroit River International Crossing which would create a seamless transportation system with our neighbor Canada. The Detroit-Windsor border crossing is the busiest trade corridor in the world.

The current crossings between these two cities have finite capacities and aging infrastructures. This impedes Michigan's ability to be competitive in the global market and hurts both the Canadian and American economies. They are pre-NAFTA infrastructures in a post-NAFTA world. That impact is seen here in Michigan as industries, including the automotive industry, work to remain competitive in the global economy.

One of the ways automotive manufacturers and their suppliers are using to achieve cost savings is the concept of just-in-time deliveries. Just-in-time deliveries have replaced the old system of warehousing the parts and supplies used in the automotive assembly process. Instead these parts and supplies are delivered as they are needed for immediate use on the assembly lines. If there is an unforeseen delay at the Detroit River crossing in this delivery process, production is slowed or stopped, causing a loss of revenue. UAW represents thousands of workers in these manufacturing industries who are impacted by the delays at the Detroit River crossing and these delays ultimately cost Michigan's overall economy millions of dollars. Just-in-time deliveries account for close to \$300 million daily passing through the Detroit-Windsor region. This translates

Into thousands of jobs and if additional capacity is not created at the Detroit River crossing Michigan will see these jobs negatively impacted and possibly lost.

On the other hand thousands of new jobs will be created in construction and the automotive industry and their supplier partners as well as other industries and businesses with the building of a new crossing and the enhanced accessibility it will provide. Moving ahead with the DRIC will position Michigan to remain competitive well into the future. It will lead to reduced border congestion, enhanced security, and future growth to the economies on both sides of this U.S./Canadian border crossing.

It is for these reasons that the UAW asks for your support for the necessary resources needed to ensure completion of the DRIC project. Thank you.

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cc: Richard Long