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**MICHIGAN HOUSE APPROVES LEGISLATION MOVING US A STEP CLOSER TO A NEW  
INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE IN DETROIT**

*Detroit Regional Chamber supports region's need for additional crossing*

**DETROIT, May 26, 2010** -- The Detroit Regional Chamber applauds the House of Representatives today for passing legislation that will allow public-private partnerships for construction and design of transportation projects, such as a new international bridge crossing in Metro Detroit.

A study released in February by the Michigan Department of Transportation reaffirmed the need for a second border crossing in the Detroit-Windsor corridor. House Bill 4961 passed 56 ayes to 51 nays and now heads to the Senate for consideration. The bill was approved by the House Transportation Committee in late April after Governor Granholm announced that Canada would finance the bridge's construction (approximately \$550 million).

"Month after month we are seeing increased traffic on the existing bridges," said Sarah Hubbard, senior vice president of government relations for the Detroit Regional Chamber. "The most recent numbers from April show a 20 percent increase for trucks on the Ambassador Bridge and 16 percent increase of trucks on Blue Water. The need is there. The House has acted strategically in positioning Detroit as an international destination for trade and commerce, we urge the Senate to do the same."

The Detroit/Windsor/Port Huron/Sarnia area is home to the busiest border crossing in North America in terms of volume of trade (more than \$1 billion in goods crosses daily). Additionally, metro Detroit is home to major passenger vehicle traffic – between 3000 and 4000 Canadian health care workers entering the region every day. An additional bridge will bring more than 10,000 jobs to Michigan and increase the size of the state's economy

***About the Detroit Regional Chamber***

With over 20,000 members and affiliates, that employ over three quarters of a million workers, the Detroit Regional Chamber is the largest chamber of commerce in the country. The chamber's mission is carried out through business attraction efforts, advocacy, strategic partnerships, valuable benefits and quality products and services to members. For more information please visit [detroitchamber.com](http://detroitchamber.com).

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