

May 11, 2010

The Honorable Pam Byrnes  
Member of the Michigan House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 30014  
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Byrnes,

We are writing on behalf the Canadian Automotive Partnership Council (CAPC) regarding the building of the new Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) between Michigan and Ontario via the Detroit/Windsor gateway.

As you are aware, the crossing between Windsor and Detroit is the world's most important single gateway for trade and represents over 60 per cent of total Canada-U.S. bilateral trade. Every day, the combined U.S. and Canadian auto industry send thousands of cross-border truck shipments, well over \$100 million dollars through this border gateway. These trucks carry production parts that are destined for automotive assembly plants in Michigan and Ontario. Production parts can cross the border up to 7 times before they are assembled into a finished vehicle. The North American automobile industry and the hundreds of thousands of employees in vehicle assembly and parts production depend on the smooth flow of just-in-time deliveries across this critical border gateway.

The need for an additional crossing to handle current and future trade flows is widely acknowledged and it is imperative that this new crossing be completed as soon as possible as it is estimated that over the next 30 years, trade between Canada and the U.S. will increase by 128 per cent. In light of the importance of efficient and effective infrastructure to the success of the automotive industry, we strongly support the partnership between the governments of Michigan and Ontario as well as Canada and the United States and their work toward securing a new gateway at Detroit/Windsor. We support the DRIC process for a new crossing that will add redundancy, unimpeded access from Ontario highways and Michigan's interstates, and dedicated access for pre-approved low-risk commercial shipments under the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program and travelers enrolled in NEXUS.

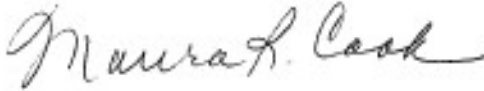
The recent DRIC study found that failing to address the congestion problem at the Windsor-Detroit border would result in 94,000 fewer jobs by 2035 in the U.S. and Canada. Personal incomes, living standards and tax revenues would decline, particularly in the local jurisdictions of Ontario and Michigan.

In addition, the construction of the DRIC will create 10,000 construction jobs in Michigan and generate another 30,000 indirect jobs in Michigan and Windsor.

**In the coming weeks, the Michigan Legislature will consider a bill to authorize construction of the new DRIC. We urge the Michigan Legislature to pass the bill by the June 1st deadline. This action signals the need to maintain the Detroit/Windsor infrastructure as a top priority.**

We appreciate your consideration and time on this issue. We hope we can count on your support of the DRIC process for a new crossing between Detroit and Windsor, which needs to start now to ensure a prosperous trade region for the future.

Sincerely,



Maura Cook  
Head of External Affairs and  
Public Policy-Chrysler Canada Inc



Bill Murnighan  
National Representative  
Canadian Auto Workers

Co-Chairs, Canadian Automotive Partnership Council (CAPC) International Trade and Border Working Group

CC:

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