



DETROIT

2715 Bagley, Detroit, MI 48216

To build, to involve, to instill pride in our community.

March 22, 2006

The Honorable Phil LaJoy
State Representative – 21st District
Chair, Transportation Committee
State Capital
Lansing, MI 48913

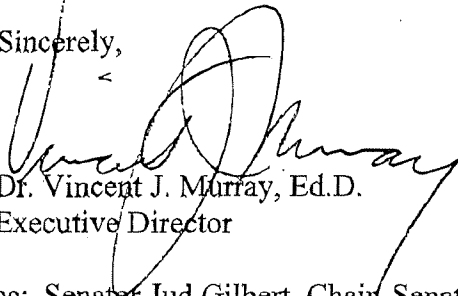
Dear Chairman LaJoy:

We are writing to share our perspective on the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) study. My name is Dr. Vincent J. Murray, executive director, Bagley Housing Association (BHA). BHA is a Southwest Detroit based community development corporation. We have had tremendous success in redeveloping the community surrounding the largest international border crossing in the United States, the Ambassador Bridge. Redevelopment investment from federal, state, local and private sectors total approximately \$50 million.

BHA is a DRIC Local Area Committee member and has followed the study with great interest. We believe that the DRIC study has been an open and participatory bi-national process. MDOT staff and consultants have held numerous public meetings re the possible locations for the new crossing. The MDOT DRIC study is concluding that the new crossing will be located in Southwest Detroit.

Over the last year the DRIC study has eliminated numerous alternatives for the new crossing. Some of the alternatives that were eliminated were private sector driven in their conceptualization and financing. There was absolutely no public participation in this private process. **With that said, we strongly support that any additional border infrastructure should be considered in an open, inclusive public process and be publicly owned.** Additionally, if a new border crossing is built in Southwest Detroit, there should be a clear community benefits agreement negotiated with the local community that bears the burden of this infrastructure.

Sincerely,



Dr. Vincent J. Murray, Ed.D.
Executive Director

cc: Senator Jud Gilbert, Chair, Senate Transportation Committee