

From: <cguzman@umd.umich.edu>
To: <phillajoy@house.mi.gov>
Date: Fri, Mar 24, 2006 1:30 PM
Subject: Southwest Detroit and the Ambassador Bridge

Dear Chairman LaJoy:

As a resident of Southwest Detroit, I live in the shadow of North America's busiest border crossing. This means that I and my neighbors have to deal with the trucks that wander lost through our residential neighborhoods and our children suffer from higher asthma rates. I am concerned about the impact of another border crossing in Southwest Detroit—an area that has seen residential and commercial revitalization and is the only part of the City of Detroit experiencing significant population growth.

However, if Michigan is to have a new border crossing to Canada, it must be determined in an open and participatory bi-national process, such as the Detroit River International Crossing Study (DRIC). MDOT staff and consultants have been responsive to resident inquiries, held numerous community meetings, and undertook a community planning process to help produce context-sensitive alternatives for further study.

While some might think the border is an opportunity for private gain, it is one of Michigan's most important economic assets. Any additional or expanded border infrastructure should be considered in open, inclusive public processes and be publicly owned. All existing border infrastructure should be subject to public oversight and accountability. Finally, if a new border crossing is built, there should be clear community benefits for the local host community that bears the burden of this infrastructure.

Sincerely,
Christina Guzmán

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CC: <stevetobocman@house.mi.gov>