



May 16, 2008

Honorable Lee Gonzales
State Representative
PO Box 30014
Lansing, MI 48909-7514

Dear Representative Gonzales:

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is a trade association of ten car and light truck manufacturers including BMW Group, Chrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Mazda, Mercedes Benz, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota and Volkswagen.

Over the past several years, we have followed the progress of the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) and their partners as they have studied the possibility of constructing a new crossing infrastructure in the Detroit-Windsor area.

Ensuring safe and efficient cross border travel across the Detroit River is of critical importance to the business of our member companies. As borders continue to be the chokepoint of our economies, traffic congestion caused by insufficient infrastructure will reduce our competitive advantage. This may lead to lost trade opportunities, and endanger employee recruitment and retention. It has become abundantly clear that we are dealing with pre-NAFTA infrastructure in a post-NAFTA world, and it is no longer meeting our economic needs.

Close to \$300 million in just-in-time deliveries alone, passes daily through the Detroit-Windsor Region. The integrated United States and Canadian auto industry, for instance, is heavily dependent on sufficient capacity at the Detroit-Windsor border crossing. Every day, this sector sends over \$100 million dollars and thousands of cross-border truck shipments through this border crossing. Assembly plants creating hundreds of thousands of jobs in Michigan, many other states in the U.S., and Ontario, rely on the just-in-time transport of automotive parts. Any border delay causes a chain reaction of economic loss that affects every business and individual.

As a participant in the Free and Secure Trade (FAST) program, our industry has urged governments at all levels in the United States and Canada to expedite improvements to the border crossings between the two countries. We support the actions of the DRIC team to increase capacity at the crossings without sacrificing security or impeding the movement of low-risk traffic.

**BMW Group • Chrysler LLC • Ford Motor Company • General Motors
Mazda • Mercedes Benz • Mitsubishi Motors • Porsche • Toyota • Volkswagen**

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The purpose of this letter is to strongly urge you to continue to fund the DRIC project, leading to a new crossing in the near future.

First, we express our support for the study process which MDOT and their partners have employed to-date, to analyze a variety of alternatives that will lead to the identification of a recommended course for action for the future. It has been comprehensive, transparent and respectful of the positions of all interested parties, as well as those of the general public.

Second, as a major user of the existing border crossings on the Detroit River, we are strong advocates of the position that there needs to be additional infrastructure. Throughout this study, Michigan and its partners have taken significant steps forward toward resolving congestion and security issues at the Detroit-Windsor border crossing. Continuation of the DRIC process, with Michigan at the table, is critically important to job providers throughout the Detroit Region. Efforts to slow down this process will be interpreted by business as efforts to limit our ability to compete in the global marketplace.

Third, from that perspective, we respectfully encourage you and others to expedite the decision making process so that construction can begin as soon as possible.

In summary, we repeat our assertion that the need for additional crossing infrastructure is critical to the international economy of this region. While we appreciate that many interests must be accommodated in this joint study, we are encouraged by the progress of the DRIC team toward identifying the preferred location for a new crossing in the Windsor-Detroit area. We encourage all parties to expedite the decision making and to continue to move forward with this project.

Furthermore, we urge Governor Granholm and the Michigan Legislature to support the completion of the Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) Study which will responsibly plan for an end-to-end solution in the Detroit-Windsor area. We also encourage all of the study partners to implement the recommendations of the study by constructing the kind of border crossing that will lead to enhanced security, increased competition, and future growth to the economies on both sides of the border.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Godlewski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Matthew" being larger and more prominent than the last name "Godlewski".

Matthew Godlewski
Vice President of State Affairs