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Canadian Vehicle
Manufacturers' Association
Association canadienne
des constructeurs de véhicules

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May 11, 2007

Senator Alan Cropsey
Majority Floor Leader
S-8 Capitol
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48909-7536

VIA FACSIMILE: (517) 373-8661

Dear Senator Cropsey:

We are writing on behalf the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA) with regard to the building of a new crossing between Michigan and Ontario through the Detroit/Windsor gateway.

As you are aware, the Ambassador Bridge between Windsor and Detroit is the world's most important single gateway for trade. Every day, the combined U.S. and Canadian auto industry send thousands of cross-border truck shipments and well over \$100 million dollars through this border gateway. These trucks carry mainly production parts that are destined for automotive assembly plants in Michigan, as well as other U.S. states, and Ontario. 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. 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. The automotive industry continues to support the DRIC process to clearly identify the best location and option for a new crossing that will add redundancy and unimpeded access from Michigan's interstates to Ontario's highways.

We understand, however, that in the ongoing discussions on the Michigan State budget, an amendment is being considered to withdraw Michigan's support for the Detroit River International Crossing study (DRIC), effectively stopping progress towards this critical new infrastructure.

Given the strategic importance of the Detroit-Windsor link we urge the government of Michigan to reject this amendment and maintain the Detroit/Windsor infrastructure as a top priority. Additionally, we ask for your support for the necessary budget resources to ensure the completion of DRIC which will lead to a new border crossing in the 2013 timeframe.

We appreciate your consideration of this issue, and we hope that we can count on your continued support of the DRIC process and for a new crossing between Detroit and Windsor.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Whatley".

for John Whatley
Vice President & General Counsel
Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark A. Nantais".

Mark A. Nantais
President
Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association

cc: Governor Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of Michigan
State Senator Jason Allen, Majority Whip
State Senator Glenn Anderson, Assistant Minority Floor Leader
State Senator Raymonnd Basham, Minority Whip
State Senator Michael Bishop, Majority Leader
State Senator Cameron Brown, Assistant Majority Floor Leader
State Senator Nancy Cassis, Majority Caucus Chairperson
State Senator Bill Hardiman
State Senator Tupac Hunter, Assistant Minority Leader
State Senator Gilda Z. Jacobs, Minority Caucus Chair
State Senator Mark Jansen, Assistant Majority Caucus Chairperson
State Senator Roger Kahn, Assistant Majority Whip
State Senator Michelle McManus, Assistant Majority Leader
State Senator Dennis Olshove, Assistant Minority Whip
State Senator Mark Schauer, Minority Leader
State Senator Buzz Thomas, Minority Floor Leader
State Senator Jerry Van Woerkom
State Senator Tom George
State Senator Randy Richardville
State Senator Tony Stamas
State Senator Cameron Brown
State Senator Ron Jelinek
State Senator Jud Gilbert
State Senator Hansen Clark
State Senator Martha Scott
State Senator Irma Clark-Coleman
Representative Andy Dillon, Speaker of the House
Representative Steve Tobocman, Majority Floor Leader
Secretary Michael Chertoff, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Secretary Mary E. Peters, U.S. Department of Transportation
Hon. Lawrence Cannon, Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Canada
Hon. Maxime Bernier, Minister of Industry, Canada
Hon. David Emerson, Minister of International Trade, Canada
Hon. James Flaherty, Minister of Finance, Canada
Hon. Dalton McGuinty, Premier of Ontario
Hon. Donna Cansfield, Minister of Transportation, Ontario
Hon. Dwight Duncan, Minister of Energy and Chair of Cabinet, Ontario
Hon. Sandra Pupatello, Minister for Economic Development and Trade, Ontario
Robert Noble, Consul General of Canada, Detroit, Michigan
Louis Ranger, Deputy Minister, Transport, Infrastructure and Communities, Canada
Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick, City of Detroit
Mayor Eddie Francis, City of Windsor
James J. Steele, U.S. FHWA Michigan Division
Rick Capka, U.S. Federal Highway Administration
Jeffrey Shane, U.S. Dept. of Transportation
Nicholas E. Mpras, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Bridge Administration
Michael P. Jackson, U.S. Dept. of Homeland Security
Kirk Steudle, Michigan Department of Transportation

About the Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers and the Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association:

The Alliance of Automobile Manufacturers is a trade association of 9 car and light truck manufacturers including BMW Group, DaimlerChrysler, Ford Motor Company, General Motors, Mazda, Mitsubishi Motors, Porsche, Toyota, and Volkswagen.

The Canadian Vehicle Manufacturers' Association (CVMA) is the industry association representing Canada's largest manufacturers of light and heavy duty motor vehicles. The CVMA's membership includes DaimlerChrysler Canada Inc.; Ford Motor Company of Canada, Limited; General Motors of Canada Limited; and International Truck and Engine Corporation Canada.