

March 20, 2014

The Honorable Gary Peters (MI-14th)
U.S. House of Representatives
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Peters:

On behalf of the Southeast Michigan Council of Governments (SEMCOG), I write to thank you for your support of federal funding for the U.S. Customs plaza at the New International Trade Crossing proposed to be built between the cities of Detroit, Michigan and Windsor, Ontario. Your bill, H.R. 4057, the Customs Plaza Construction Act of 2014, would authorize funding for the construction of the customs plaza which is vital for the project to move into the next phase of development.

Construction of a new bridge between Detroit and Windsor is critical to enhancing Michigan's economic strength and security. The NITC would help establish Michigan as a global transportation hub by facilitating increased international trade and attracting new investment into the state. The current point of crossing between Detroit and Windsor is plagued by traffic congestion and a new crossing would improve the flow of international trade between the U.S. and Canada at the busiest point on the northern border. Furthermore, construction of the new international crossing has the potential to create 10,000 construction-related jobs, as well as create new economic development activity to support long-term jobs in advanced manufacturing and other industries.

Over 75% of the yearly border crossings that take place each year within the SEMCOG region are occurring in Detroit. With 12.5 million crossing occurring yearly, we must have sufficient facilities to manage this tremendous flow of people and goods. Our national government needs to be a partner in this significant economic development project. The NITC will have a significant impact in Southeast Michigan and it will also be felt throughout the entire Midwest.

Thank you again for your commitment to securing federal funding for the customs plaza of the New International Trade Crossing. I stand ready to assist in any possible way.

Sincerely,



Paul E. Tait, CAE