



City of Grand Rapids, Michigan

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

GEORGE K. HEARTWELL
MAYOR

March 12, 2014

The Honorable Gary Peters
U.S. House of Representatives
1609 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Representative Peters:

I am writing to thank you for your support of federal funding for the U.S. Customs Plaza at the New International Trade Crossing between the cities of Detroit, Michigan, and Windsor, Ontario. Your bill, H.R. 4057, the Customs Plaza Construction Act of 2014, would authorize funding that is critical to move into the next phase of development for this new international point of entry – construction of the Customs Plaza.

Construction of a new bridge will improve the flow of international trade between the U.S. and Canada at the busiest crossing on the northern border. Additionally, it will establish Michigan as a global transportation hub by facilitating increased international trade and attracting new investment into the state. As you are aware, 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.

The City of Grand Rapids, the second largest city in Michigan, is experiencing exponential growth in the fields of advanced manufacturing, information technology, life sciences, agribusiness, and aerospace and defense. Additional capacity at the Canadian border will ensure there is proper infrastructure to serve this expansion and also attract additional investment.

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,


George K. Heartwell