

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

January 27, 2014

Dear Secretary Johnson:

Congratulations on your confirmation last month as United States Secretary of Homeland Security. Your qualifications, experience, and commitment to public service will be an asset to the Department and our country.

I understand that last week you visited Texas and Arizona to inspect border security operations at the Southern Border. I invite you to visit my district to see first-hand the distinct opportunities and challenges found in communities along the Northern Border.

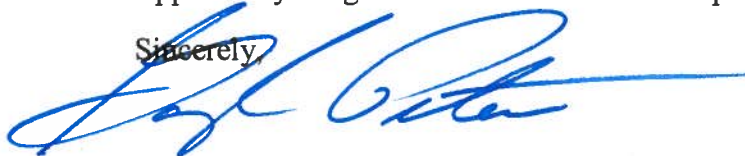
The Detroit-Windsor international trade and travel crossing, in my congressional district, is one of the most important international trade crossings in the world. U.S. trade with Canada averages \$1.5 billion per day, resulting in approximately \$500 billion in cross border trade of goods annually. More than 200 million people cross the U.S. - Canada border each year. This movement of people and goods across the border supports hundreds of thousands of jobs across the Northern Border region and over 250,000 in my home state of Michigan alone.

The Beyond the Border Action Plan agreement between the United States and Canada has served as an important framework for international cooperation towards our mutual security and economic goals. The December 2013 Beyond the Border Implementation Report identified several key accomplishments to increase efficiency of security operations and facilitate legitimate trade and travel, such as the NEXUS trusted traveler program and Shiprider law enforcement operations. I look forward to working with you as we continue to implement existing action items as well as develop future goals.

One project in particular that presents a critical opportunity to leverage the Northern Border as a resource is the New International Trade Crossing (NITC). There are roughly 8,000 trucks that cross the border in Detroit daily, supporting hundreds of thousands of jobs. Currently, the Ambassador Bridge supports 99% of Detroit-Windsor commercial traffic despite only having four lanes and lack of a freeway-to-freeway connection. Including another modern, competitive option for trade and travel in the Detroit-Windsor corridor will support jobs, economic development, and tourism in Michigan. I encourage you to prioritize funding for the NITC customs plaza in Customs and Border Protection's Fiscal Year 2015 budget request.

As a member of the Congressional Northern Border Caucus and a Co-Chair of the Congressional Caucus on Canada, I would be honored to host you in Detroit and visit facilities to meet many of the men and women of the Department critical to protecting our country and facilitating legitimate trade and travel. I hope you will be able to visit the Greater Detroit area soon so that you may see for yourself how critical the Northern Border is to our nation, as well as the opportunity for growth and economic development in the Detroit region.

Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
Member of Congress