

March 18, 2014

The Honorable Barack Obama
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

**Urging Swift Administration Action to Resolve Funding
for Detroit-Windsor Bridge Customs Facility**

Dear President Obama:

The undersigned organizations urge you to swiftly resolve questions surrounding funding for the U.S. Federal Plaza associated with the New International Trade Crossing (NITC) bridge between Detroit and Windsor, Ontario to allow the project to commence.

The new six-lane bridge will enhance a vital link with America's closest economic partner. The current trade corridor, the busiest between the United States and Canada, handles 8,000 truck crossings and 68,000 travelers daily. The existing four-lane, 85-year old Ambassador Bridge is simply inadequate to handle projected volume increases. By adding vital new capacity, the NITC will reduce border congestion, enhance efficiencies for businesses on both sides of the border, create jobs, benefit the environment, and strengthen the North American economy.

While the new bridge is expected to sustain and create a large number of jobs in the United States once finished, there will be an immediate boost to the construction sector as this significant infrastructure project gets underway. In fact, the project is expected to support thousands of direct construction jobs and thousands of other indirect jobs in Michigan, a state that was hard hit by the recession and is still working to recover. The long lasting impact of the project will be felt beyond Michigan, as the entire Midwest relies on reliable transportation infrastructure at the Detroit-Windsor crossing to get goods to market.

The new bridge has been on the drawing board for more than a decade. We were pleased when, in April 2013, the U.S. State Department determined that the project was in the national interest and announced approval of the NITC's presidential permit. We now ask you to finish the process by definitively resolving the questions surrounding funding for U.S. Federal Plaza customs facility associated with the NITC. Canada has agreed to pay for almost all the \$2 billion project; however the United States' has not yet committed to its relatively modest share - \$250 million for the Federal Plaza.

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We urge you to make U.S. Customs and Border Protection funds available for the project. We also concur with the request made by members of the Michigan congressional delegation in their February 21, 2014 letter that you name a senior White House official with the responsibility of coordinating between interested parties and moving the NITC project forward.

Thank you for your consideration and timely attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

American Concrete Pavement Association
American Concrete Pipe Association
American Concrete Pressure Pipe Association
American Council of Engineering Companies of Michigan
American Highway Users Alliance
American Road & Transportation Builders Association
American Supply Association
American Traffic Safety Services Association
Associated Equipment Distributors
Associated General Contractors of America
Associated General Contractors of Michigan
Association of Equipment Manufacturers
Concrete Reinforcing Steel Institute
Detroit Regional Chamber
Distribution Contractors Association
Energy Equipment & Infrastructure Alliance
Farm Equipment Manufacturers Association
International Union of Operating Engineers
Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Dealers Association
Iowa-Nebraska Equipment Distributors
Laborers International Union of North America
Mid-America Equipment Retailers Association
National Asphalt Pavement Association
National Association of Chemical Distributors
National Association of Manufacturers
National Electrical Contractors Association
National Ready Mixed Concrete Association
National Stone, Sand & Gravel Association
North American Equipment Dealers Association
Northeast Equipment Dealers Association

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NUCA - Representing Utility & Excavation Contractors
Ohio Equipment Distributors Association
Ohio-Michigan Equipment Dealers Association
Pacific Northwest Hardware & Implement Association
Portland Cement Association
The Real Estate Roundtable
Southeast Michigan Chapter – National Electrical Contractors Association
Steel Manufacturers Association
The Technology and Manufacturing Association
United Brotherhood of Carpenters and Joiners of America

c.c. The Honorable Jeh Johnson, Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
The Honorable John Kerry, Secretary, U.S. Department of State
The Honorable Sylvia Mathews Burwell, Director, Office of Management and Budget
The Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary, U.S. Department of Transportation
The Honorable Dan M. Tangherlini, Administrator, U.S. General Services Administration
The Honorable Don Graves, Executive Director of the President's Council on Jobs and Competitiveness and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Small Business, Community Development and Housing Policy, U.S. Department of the Treasury