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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

BRIAN BANKS, M.ED., J.D.

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

February 24, 2016

Commandant (CG-BRG-2)
U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Stop 7418
2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Avenue, SE
Washington, D.C. 20593-7418

Re: Public Notice 09-01-16, Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project Permit Application
Via: United States Postal Service and e-mail

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer these supportive comments on the Detroit International Bridge Company's application for an amended navigational permit that would allow for the construction of a Twin Span for the Ambassador Bridge. This project will provide much needed jobs for the local community residents and a boost to the local economy. As you are aware this is the nation's busiest trade crossing. The land swap agreement in place will provide residents of Detroit a larger, renewed riverside park. For these reasons, and the others offered below, I offer my support for the project.

Having served in the legislature for four years, I have had the opportunity to work with the Detroit International Bridge Company on a number of occasions. I have always found the Detroit International Bridge Company to be extremely professional and helpful to the community. In addition to providing jobs to my constituents; they have donated hats, gloves, and scarves to those in need. They have also generously donated new athletic uniforms to local schools.

The Ambassador Bridge carries over 20 percent of the trade between the United States and Canada. The Twin Span will allow the current Ambassador Bridge to be completely rehabilitated after the new span is operational. The benefits that will flow from the construction of Twin Span have caused many public officials in Michigan, including myself, to support the project. In addition, many residents have shown overwhelming support for the Twin Span Project and the expanded and improved Riverside Park.

Finally, it must be noted that this project has already endured a lengthy delay. DIBC has pursued construction of its Twin Span for nearly twelve years now and, in that process, has gone through this NEPA process at least three times. The community needs resolution.

I urge the Coast Guard to issue DIBC the navigational permit it needs to begin construction of the Twin Span. I appreciate your consideration, and if you have any questions or concerns please feel free to contact my office at 517-373-0154 or brianbanks@house.mi.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Banks".

Brian Banks, M.Ed., J.D.
State Representative, House District 1
Chair Detroit, Caucus