



**THE SENATE  
STATE OF MICHIGAN**

**BERT JOHNSON**

2ND DISTRICT

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

February 28, 2016

Re: Public Notice 09-01-16, Ambassador Bridge Enhancement Project Permit Application

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to urge the Coast Guard to approve the Ambassador Bridge Twin Span permit as soon as possible. The benefits for the citizens of Detroit are substantial and support an immediate approval of this long overdue permit, so those benefits can be realized. This project will provide jobs for the local community. The project will also strengthen the state and national economies at the nation's busiest trade crossing. Moreover, DIBC and the City of Detroit worked closely together to implement a land swap agreement that will provide residents of Detroit a larger, renewed riverside park that can be enjoyed by the public.

As you know, the Ambassador Bridge carries over 20 percent of trade between the United States and Canada. The Twin Span will create necessary redundancy at this border crossing by allowing the current Ambassador Bridge to be completely rehabilitated after the new span is fully operational.

The tangible benefits to be realized from the construction of the Twin Span have caused a great many public officials in Michigan, including myself, to support the project. Most recently, the City of Detroit reached an agreement after numerous public hearings, with applied public comment, where residents showed overwhelming support for the Twin Span project. The Detroit City Council approved the land swap agreement in which DIBC will receive the land necessary to build the Twin Span and the City will receive \$5m and additional land from DIBC that, together, make the Riverside Park a national jewel for our citizens.

As a senior member of Michigan's legislature and more especially, a member of Detroit's delegation, I am acutely aware of the lengthy delays associated with this project. DIBC has pursued construction of its Twin Span for better than a decade, and has met the requirements of the NEPA process several times over. For the health, safety and welfare of all interested parties, including area residents, and a much improved economy, I am hopeful for both your blessing and an amicable solution. It is my sincere hope that the Coast Guard, in this instance, would issue the necessary navigational permit that the DIBC requires to begin construction of the Twin Span. Thank you in advance for your cooperation in this regard. Should you have any questions, I can be reached at the above written telephone number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bert Johnson".