

# MI NURSES Association

## MICHIGAN NURSES ASSOCIATION

### Headquarters

2310 Jolly Oak Road

Okemos, MI 48864

phone: 517-349-5640

fax: 517-349-5818

web: www.minurses.org

### U.P. Office

1500 W. Washington St., Suites 5 and 6

Marquette, MI 49855

phone: 906-226-7053

fax: 906-226-2701

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### RE: Coast Guard approval of second private span between Detroit and Windsor

Both as a Registered Nurse and a mother of two young children, I am very concerned that approval of the proposal to build a new bridge is moving too fast.

You have no doubt been presented with many statistics about the connection between diesel emissions and poor health outcomes. I would like there to be a focus on the risks to children, who are living in an area that is already documented as harmful to their health. These children are already being exposed to toxic emissions that cause lifelong problems, including increased asthma rates.

I would respectfully suggest that we consider the damage that has been done to a whole generation of kids in Flint, and how difficult it is to deal with the exposure to toxins after the fact. Here, by contrast, we have the chance to prevent a toxic environment from getting worse.

As you know, diesel emissions are a known carcinogen.

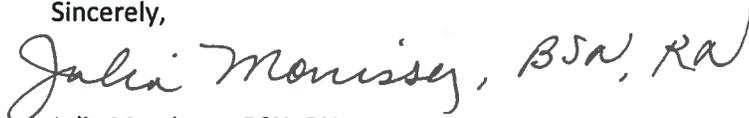
As a nurse I have had the privilege of working with many individuals who are dealing with cancer. Most of the time, no one can pinpoint anything that caused the cancer. But in the cases where there is a direct link, how many lives and how much heartache would be saved if we could stop cancer from developing in the first place?

Here, we literally have the chance to prevent cancer and other serious illnesses by limiting exposure to diesel emissions. That is a powerful opportunity and responsibility.

Every parent wants their children to grow up safe and healthy, and children should have that right no matter where they live. No parent would force their child to smoke; how is it OK that children are forced to inhale toxic chemicals like benzene just by virtue of where they live? Children should not have to struggle with something as basic as being able to breathe.

In conclusion, I urge the U.S. Coast Guard to conduct a complete, updated Environmental Impact Study before making a decision about the bridge. I urge you to consider the economic costs of increased hospitalization, children who cannot succeed in school and people who are not healthy enough to work; I urge you first and foremost, though, to think of the lives and human potential that will be lost if this plan moves forward.

Sincerely,



Julia Morrissey, BSN, RN

Member, Board of Directors, Michigan Nurses Association