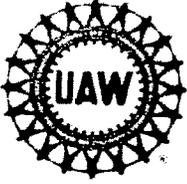


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INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA - UAW

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DENNIS D. WILLIAMS, SECRETARY-TREASURER

VICE-PRESIDENTS: JOE ASHTON • CINDY ESTRADA • GENERAL HOLIEFIELD • JIMMY SETTLES

June 14, 2011

RE: Supporting New International Trade Crossing with Community Benefits Process

Dear House Transportation Committee Members,

Michigan has a tremendous opportunity in building the New International Trade Crossing (NITC), not only to create 10,000 construction jobs and put our skilled trades brothers and sisters to work, but to pave the way for more economic activity by improving our country's busiest border crossing.

However, this over \$5-billion US-Canada NITC project investment can't be a truly win-win development without a community benefits process that ensures local investments that will address impacts brought on by the development. This will lead to more permanent jobs and the creation of new economic activities that attract new businesses.

State Representative Rashida Tlaib (District 12) and State Senator Coleman Young II (District 1) have introduced bills calling for a "Community Benefits Agreement," as part of a Bridge Investment & Accountability Bills Package. The legislation will not only ensure the creation of permanent jobs, economic development and help create a vibrant host community, but it will be a model example of responsible development that will better serve Michigan's citizens and communities that sacrifice for us all.

Our building trades and other labor affiliates are working to guarantee the success of these Bridge Investment and Accountability Bills. The bills would create a legally-binding agreement for:

- Job training and local hiring access programs
- Replacement housing for dislocated residents
- Home improvement funds and environmental clean-up to address impacts
- Programs to reduce diesel pollution from over 10,000 trucks per day

Each of these programs would create jobs in our region and create a healthy community. This community investment approach is a positive departure from the "tax-break" development that has not guaranteed jobs or better communities. This new approach is having successes around the country in LA, Pittsburgh, Milwaukee, Atlanta, and elsewhere.

I urge your support of this initiative. Please contact your representatives to ask their support for NITC with Community Benefits and Bridge Accountability Bills--to create more living wage jobs and healthy communities.

In solidarity,

  
Bob King, President  
International Union, UAW

BK:lh/opei494

cc: Rep. Rashida Tlaib