



# City of Detroit

CITY COUNCIL

CHARLES PUGH  
COUNCIL PRESIDENT

June 15, 2011

***RE: Supporting New International Trade Crossing with Community Benefits Process***

Dear Members of the House Transportation Committee,

I am writing to fully support the New International Trade Crossing. It is without question that the city of Detroit is at a critical moment. Our citizens need work. Our economy needs to grow. I believe that the NITC will be a tremendous boon to our local, regional and state economies in both the near and short term. Detroiters will absolutely benefit from the 10,000 construction jobs. The redevelopment activity is sorely needed in the Southwest region of our city as well. Most of all I believe that we can accelerate the growth of our economy by concentrating investment in our core economic strengths, one of those is trade. The NITC is needed so that the Detroit-Windsor border crossing remains competitive with other US-Canadian border crossing. The construction of the NITC is also critical to realizing the shared vision of making the Detroit region a global hub for international commerce.

That said the true promise of the NITC can never be realized without the full support and engagement of the citizens who will be immediately impacted by the construction activity. State Representative Rashida Tlaib (District 12) and State Senator Coleman Young II (District 1) have introduced bills calling for a "Community Benefits Agreement" to be a part of the Bridge Investment & Accountability legislation. The Community Benefits Agreement is a proven model for responsible development and will ensure that investment in communities can occur alongside investment in industry.

I urge your support for this legislative initiative. Investment is key to the prosperity of state. Not only do we have a duty to invest in our infrastructure, but we also have a moral obligation to invest in the wellness of our citizens.

Respectfully Yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Charles Pugh".

Charles Pugh  
Council President