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MICHIGAN HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

GINO H. POLIDORI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE

COMMITTEES:
MILITARY AND VETERANS AFFAIRS
AND HOMELAND SECURITY, CHAIR
EDUCATION
INSURANCE

To: Chairman Constan and Members of the House Committee on Governmental Operations

From: Representative Gino H. Polidori

Date: December 15, 2009

Re: Testimony for HR 112

Thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the House Committee on Governmental Operations. I am Tim Sneller, Legislative Director for Representative Polidori. I would like to apologize that Rep. Polidori could not be here today because of a scheduling conflict, but it was important to him at I be to explain HR 112.

As you know, HR 112 was introduced by Rep. Polidori when the Italian Government announced earlier this year that it was proposing the closure of the Italian Consulate Office in Detroit.

HR 112 would basically ask the United States Department of State to work with the Italian Government to maintain the Italian Consulate in downtown Detroit.

Since 1899, the Italian government has had a presence in Detroit, which has been marked by generations of personal, cultural, educational and commercial exchanges. The Italian Consulate in Detroit not only serves Michigan, it has jurisdiction in Ohio, Indiana, Tennessee and Kentucky.

The consulate offers such services as; assisting with visas, working with businesses in Michigan and Italy and to provide services to Italian-Americans for education and cultural exchanges.

The recent merger between Chrysler Corporation and Fiat will be vital because the world headquarters in located in Michigan and services between the two countries will certainly increase.

Finally, this joint adventure would seem more likely to create more of a demand for the Italian Consulate to remain in Detroit with an official presence because that interaction will be increased over the next several years.

Thank you for your time today and if there are any questions, I would certainly be happy to try and address them.

JOHN D. DINGELL
19TH DISTRICT MICHIGAN

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Congress of the United States
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Washington, DC 20515-2215

June 22, 2009

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Segreteria Particolare della
Presidenza del Consiglio dei Ministri
Signor Presidente del Consiglio
On. Silvio Berlusconi
Palazzo Chigi
Piazza Colonna, 370
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Dear Signor Presidente:

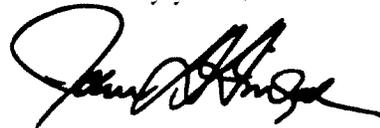
I write to you today on behalf of my constituents who are served by the offices of the Consul General of Detroit, Michigan, USA. I understand that the present facility located at 535 Griswold Street is to be closed and its operations moved to a site in Chicago, Illinois.

I am hopeful that the decision can be reviewed. This state has a large and viable Italian community, one that reaches out in great numbers to the Detroit consulate office in regard to many important issues such as passports, certificates of birth, marriage and death, and also land transactions in Italy. Italian passports are renewable in Detroit, and assistance offered in emergencies.

While I am cognizant of those needs, there is a far greater one to be considered. The Detroit-based auto industry is on the brink of new alliances of a global nature. We in Michigan are watching closely the Chrysler-Fiat partnership and what it will mean to our economy of this region. There are opportunities ahead and a consulate office in Detroit could be an all important link. I ask that you continue to be part of a new era.

With every good wish,

Sincerely yours,



John D. Dingell
Member of Congress