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THE SENATE
STATE OF MICHIGAN
CAMERON S. BROWN
ASSISTANT MAJORITY FLOOR LEADER

May 20, 2009

Mr. Dan Stamper, President
Detroit International Bridge Company
P.O. Box 32666
Detroit, MI 48232

Dear Mr. Stamper:

For several decades, city, community and business leaders in Detroit have debated the fate of the historic Michigan Central Depot property. Please allow this letter to convey our interest in exploring the potential rehabilitation of the building as a multi-purpose facility that could once again serve the city, state and nation.

With more than 500,000 square feet of space on nearly 14 acres in proximity to critical state, regional and international infrastructure facilities, the Central Depot property has great potential to house a complimentary set of homeland security, intermodal transportation and economic development-related functions. The property is ideally located in an area of unique intermodal convergence that includes the Ambassador Bridge, the Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, connections to three interstate highways, the Detroit-Wayne County Port and several freight lines.

As Chairs of the Senate Homeland Security and Emerging Technologies Committee, the Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, the Senate Transportation Committee, the Senate Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee, the Department of Military and Veterans Affairs / Department of State Police Appropriations Subcommittee and the Senate Federal Stimulus Oversight Subcommittee, we are interested in reviewing the property's potential use relative to state and national homeland security efforts as well as intermodal transportation and economic development projects.

We understand that the Detroit International Bridge Company (DIBC) is actively searching for an anchor tenant to justify the expenses associated with their refurbishment of this historical landmark. With that in mind, we have provided a list of possible uses based on initial discussions with our colleagues. Each of these possible uses may also be eligible for funding

under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, especially given the property's intriguing intermodal possibilities.

Michigan State Police (MSP) -- As a result of events that occurred in the spring of 2008, the MSP assumed the forensic needs of the City of Detroit early in fiscal year FY 2008-09. This added a 20% increase in lab cases for the state system to process. It is estimated that the MSP is seeking 71,000 square feet of space for a crime lab in Detroit to accommodate the 20% increase in workload.

Department of Homeland Security -- Customs and Border Protection -- On April 17, 2009, the federal government issued a RFQ for leasing approximately 50,000 square feet of office space on the first floor of a building to be located on a three to 10 acre parcel of land, with a 3,600 square foot helipad to be occupied by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security for Customs and Border Protection. The property must be located north of I-94, south of the Detroit River, east of Connor street and west of the Ambassador bridge to I-96. The Central Depot matches each prerequisite, and we understand that the DIBC has submitted a proposal as part of the formal bidding process.

Together these two law enforcement uses could occupy some 120,000 square feet of the building and again benefit by proximity to nearby interstate connections that dramatically reduce response times.

Regional homeland security effort -- As part of establishing a homeland security policy in Michigan, the Senate Homeland Security and Emerging Technologies Committee is looking to introduce legislation that would facilitate regional (Great Lakes area) cooperation among federal, state and local governments. Michigan could serve as a model in advancing a regional and multi-state emergency-management system by enacting model legislation that would strengthen state and local preparedness capabilities. It is worth exploring whether this property could facilitate the synergy of having state and federal homeland security forces located together.

Trade processing center and inspections -- The Senate Homeland Security and Emerging Technologies Committee has received testimony noting that military inspections are preferably conducted a short distance away from border crossings in a secure setting in order to facilitate movement at the crossing and provide for unobstructed and more thorough inspections. This logic could be used at the Central Depot building to facilitate local and state security and trade opportunities. In addition, the DIBC's previous work on an international trade processing center could be complimentary to this new and more expansive concept.

We understand that numerous efforts have been made over the years by the DIBC to find a sustainable use for the Central Depot. Given your past work and by using a combination of the ideas included above, it may be possible to utilize this historic structure in a manner that benefits not only the city, but the region as a whole.

We have discussed all of these possibilities with Senator Hansen Clarke in whose district the Central Depot building is located. He has expressed support for rehabilitating the building, and it is our understanding he will be sending a letter stating his position in this regard. We have also

discussed this with Senator Buzz Thomas who like Senator Clarke favors the Central Depot's rehabilitation. We welcome the opportunity to work with you to determine how we can accomplish our goals of protecting Michigan, fostering economic development and moving Detroit and the metro region forward.

Sincerely,



Cameron S. Brown
State Senator – 16th District
Senate Homeland Security and Emerging Technologies Committee, Chair



Jason Allen
State Senator – 37th District
Senate Commerce and Tourism Committee, Chair




Jud Gilbert
State Senator – 25th District
Senate Transportation Committee, Chair



Alan Sanborn
State Senator – 11th District
Senate Economic Development and Regulatory Reform Committee, Chair



Valde Garcia
State Senator – 22nd District
Depts. of Military and Veterans Affairs / State Police Appropriations Subcommittee, Chair



Ron Jelinek
State Senator – 21st District
Senate Appropriations Committee and Federal Stimulus Oversight Subcommittee, Chair

cc: Jennifer Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan
Michigan Congressional Delegation

Senator Majority Leader Mike Bishop
Senator Hansen Clarke
Senator Buzz Thomas
Dave Bing, Mayor of Detroit
Detroit City Council
Bob Ficano, Wayne County Executive
Detroit Building and Safety Department
Detroit Law Department
Kirk Steudle, Michigan Department of Transportation Director
Stanley Pruss, Michigan Department of Energy, Labor and Economic Growth Director
Col. Peter C. Munoz, Michigan Department of State Police Director
Federal Highway Administration
Federal Transit Administration
Federal Department of Homeland Security
Southeast Michigan Council of Governments
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