



December 17, 2010

Hon. Stephen J. Harper  
Prime Minister of Canada  
Office of the Prime Minister  
80 Wellington Street  
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A2

Hon. Barack H. Obama  
President of the United States  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Prime Minister Harper and President Obama:

On behalf of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority – a binational entity chartered to oversee the Peace Bridge international trade corridor between the Province of Ontario and New York State – I would like to extend my organization's profound support for future discussions between Canada and the United States regarding a "New Border Vision" and other innovative approaches to enhancing commerce, travel, and security between our two great nations.

As the free flow of people and goods across our common border is of paramount consequence to the overall economic viability of North America, the Authority stands ready to assist in the development and implementation of port enhancement activities that will facilitate the realization of these worthy objectives.

More specifically, potential advancements in coordinated border administration and pre-processing for commercial vehicles is of particular interest to the Authority, based on our evolving plans to expand and modernize the current Peace Bridge facility. The Authority believes that this concept has substantial merit and could provide immediate and long-term relief to the chronic congestion being experienced daily at the crossing. Such congestion negatively impacts the corridor's yearly facilitation of over \$30 billion in direct commerce between Canada and the United States, and impairs another \$300 billion in associated binational economic activity, as well as over one million North American jobs.

In closing, the initiation of sincere and comprehensive strategies to bolster the movement of trade and tourism between Canada and the United States in a safe and efficient manner is not just good business, it is also sound policy and essential to the long-term economic prosperity of our nations.

Thank you for your continued recognition of the mutually beneficial Canada – U.S. trade partnership.

Sincerely,

  
Kenneth Schoetz  
Chairman, Board of Directors  
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority

  
Anthony Anunziata  
Vice Chairman, Board of Directors  
Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority





THE PEACE BRIDGE  
CROSSING PATHS  BUILDING FUTURES

cc: Hon. Rob Nicholson, Minister, Department of Justice and Attorney General of Canada  
Hon. Janet Napolitano, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security  
Hon. Chuck Strahl, Minister, Transport, Infrastructure and Communities Canada  
Hon. Ray LaHood, Secretary, United States Department of Transportation  
Hon. Vic Toews, Minister, Public Safety Canada  
Hon. Luc Portelance, President, Canada Border Services Agency  
Hon. Alan Bersin, Commissioner, United States Customs and Border Protection  
Hon. Charles Schumer, United States Senator, New York  
Hon. Kirsten Gillibrand, United States Senator, New York  
Hon. Chris Lee, Member of Congress, New York (26th)  
Hon. Brian Higgins, Member of Congress, New York (27th)  
Hon. Louise Slaughter, Member of Congress, New York (28th)

