



February 8, 2011

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

***RE: A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness***

Dear Prime Minister Harper and President Obama:

The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority would like to commend your recent declaration of a joint Canada–United States partnership to address the need for greater security and trade facilitation between the world’s most integrated economies.

This “Shared Vision” offers the spot-on assessment that our common border does indeed need to be managed in a more comprehensive, efficient, safe, and secure manner. By seeking innovative solutions to Customs processing requirements and techniques, the reformation of various cumbersome regulations, and a renewed focus on essential and long-overdue port infrastructure enhancements, the declaration will provide the impetus necessary for achieving a safer and more prosperous North America.

The reality remains that many of the publicly-owned ports of entry (POE) between the two countries are in woefully inadequate condition. This includes the United States POE at the Peace Bridge in Buffalo, NY, which was constructed almost 60 years ago, yet still handles millions of vehicles per year and over \$30 billion in annual related commerce.

As such, the Bridge Authority is ready and willing to assist with the “Beyond the Border” working groups that will be commissioned following your announcement. The initial framework suggests that these working groups may help plan, develop, and most importantly advance critical port enhancement initiatives via a timely, four-month review period. This is an encouraging concept and the Bridge Authority invites all prospective bi-national border committee members to visit the Peace Bridge corridor be it for a fact-finding mission or more official gatherings of the working groups. The Buffalo POE facility in particular would be a superb and instructive setting for such an event.

Thank you for once again for your focus on the Canada-United States border.

Sincerely,

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

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



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)