



MEMBERS:
SENATOR HILDENBRAND,
MAJORITY VICE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR NOFS
SENATOR EMMONS
SENATOR HANSEN
SENATOR HUNTER,
MINORITY VICE CHAIRMAN
SENATOR SMITH

**STATE OF MICHIGAN
THE SENATE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
COMMITTEE
SENATOR MIKE KOWALL
CHAIRMAN**

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MINUTES

A meeting of the Senate Economic Development Committee was held on Monday, August 15, 2011, at 9:57 a.m. at the Gloria Jeff Welcome Center in Detroit, Michigan.

Attendance was recorded as follows:

Present: Kowall (C), Nofs, Emmons, Hansen, Smith

Excused: Hildenbrand, Hunter

Senator Smith motioned to excuse Senator Hildenbrand and Senator Hunter from today's committee. Without objection, the motion prevailed by unanimous voice.

Senator Kowall announced the order of business:

- Tour of proposed bridge sites.

The following members of the Senate Economic Development Committee, House of Representatives, and Parliament of Canada gave opening remarks regarding the proposed building of a new bridge spanning from Michigan to Canada:

(Listed in speaking order)

Senator Kowall

Senator Nofs

Senator Smith

Representative Tlaib

Senator Emmons

Senator Hansen

Parliamentarian Masse

Matthew Moroun of the Detroit International Bridge Company, representing the Ambassador Bridge, gave verbal testimony opposed to creating a governmental authority for a new international trade crossing (NITC) Bridge.

Sandi Villeneuve, President of ABpC, Inc. (Advanced Border Processing Center), gave verbal testimony regarding the creation of a second bridge to Canada.

Brad Williams of the Detroit Chamber of Commerce, representing the New International Trade Crossing Coalition (the Coalition), gave verbal testimony in support of a NITC Bridge.

In addition to the verbal testimony given, the Coalition submitted information to the committee members (see testimony documents).

Tom Shields, President of Marketing Resource Group, representing the Coalition, gave verbal testimony in support of a NITC Bridge.

David Miller, representing GNOSIS Management Group, gave verbal testimony in support of a NITC Bridge.

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Eric Gaabo, representing the City of Detroit (legal division), gave verbal testimony in support of a NITC Bridge.

The following individuals of the Southwest Detroit Community Benefits Coalition gave verbal testimony and submitted information (see testimony documents) to the committee members regarding a NITC Bridge:

(In speaking order)

State Representative Rashida Tlaib

Scott Brines, Resident of Detroit

Debra Williams, Resident of Detroit and business owner

State Senator Coleman Young II

Simone Sagovac, Resident of Detroit

Greg Ward of the Detroit-Windsor Truck Ferry, Resident of Detroit and business owner

John James, President of the James Group International, gave verbal testimony in support of a NITC Bridge.

Jay Shah and “Ram” Ramanujam of SOMAT Engineering gave verbal testimony regarding geotechnical explorations, testing, analyses, and conclusions relative to the NITC landing site.

The following link provides access to findings of bridge studies performed:

www.partnershipborderstudy.com/reports_us.asp

The following four documents are relevant to the testimony provided:

- 1) Final Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix G, Summary of Geotechnical Advisory Group Activities
 - a) <http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com/pdf/FEIS/Appendix%20G.pdf>
- 2) Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Appendix G, Summary of Geotechnical Advisory Group Activities
 - a) <http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com/pdf/us-reports/Appendix%20G.pdf>
- 3) Draft Environmental Impact Statement, Technical Reports, Brine Well Cavity Investigation Study – Part 1 and Part 2
 - a) http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com/pdf/us-tech-reports/Brine%20Well%20Cavity%20Investigation%20Program_Part%201.pdf
 - b) http://www.partnershipborderstudy.com/pdf/us-tech-reports/Brine%20Well%20Cavity%20Investigation%20Program_Part%202.pdf

The following individuals representing Canada gave verbal testimony and submitted information (see testimony document) to the committee members in support of a NITC Bridge:

(In speaking order)

Mark Butler of Transport Canada

Sean O’Dell, Executive Director of the Windsor Gateway Project with Transport Canada

Shelly Harding-Smith, Community Activist

Jayson Myers, President & CEO of Canadian Manufacturers & Exporters

Mayor Eddie Francis, City of Windsor

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During the fact-finding tour, the following individuals provided overviews; explanations; and historical, background, and factual information:

(In speaking order)

Matt Moroun

Kirk Steudle, Director of MDOT

Representative Tlaib

Pastor Kevin Casillas

Simone Sagovac

Parliamentarian Brian Masse

Mark Butler

Roy Norton, Canadian Consul General

Sean O'Dell

Being no further business before the committee, Senator Kowall adjourned the meeting without objection at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Date approved by the Committee: September 7, 2011