10-3-11

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DEAR HONORABLE BODY,

THERE ARE TWO STATEMENTS OF FACT THAT CAN BE MADE ABOUT THIS BRIDGE PROJECT. ONE, IS THAT THERE ARE FEW COUNTIES IN MICHIGAN THAT WILL NOT BENEFIT FROM THE INCREASED TRADE THIS NEW BORDER CROSSING WILL BRING ESPECIALLY TO OUR OUT-STATE COUNTIES WHO ARE AGRICULTURALLY BASED. TWO, THERE IS ONLY ONE COMMUNITY THAT WILL BARE THE BURDEN OF THIS NECCESARY INFRA-STRUCTURE PROJECT, FROM THIS TIME ONWARD AND THAT IS THE HISTORIC COMMUNITY OF DELRAY.

THIS IS NOT AN IRRECONCILABLE SITUATION OR ONE THAT SHOULD PUT OUR RESPECTIVE COMMUNITIES AT ODDS. WE ARE ONLY ASKING WHAT IS FAIR AND JUST TO ALL OF US IN THIS STATE, AND THAT THOSE WHO REAP THE BENIFITS OF THIS BRIDGE SHOULD HELP TO MITIGATE THE HARM DONE TO OUR COMMUNITY BY VOTING WITH US. EVEN THOUGH ECON-OMICALLY THE STATE AS A WHOLE WILL GAIN FROM THE BRIDGE, WE ARE NOT ASKING THE STATE TO PUT ITS HAND IN ITS POCKET FOR US. THERE IS ALREADY A MODEL FOR THE TYPE OF HELP, THAT WILL DO US THE MOST LONG-TERM GOOD

CALLED A COMMUNITY BENEFITS AGREE-
MENT, WHICH IS ENTERED INTO BY THE
CONTRACTOR WHO'S WON THE BRIDGE JOB
AND OUR COMMUNITY. THE CONTRACTOR
ASSUMES THE COST. THESE AGREEMENTS
HAVE BEEN DONE THROUGH OUT OUR COUNTRY
WITH SUCCESS. AND ARE ALREADY STANDARD
PROCEDURES IN SOME STATES. THEY WORK
BOTTOM LINE. MEGALITHIC PROJECTS
LIKE THIS DON'T HAPPEN EVERY DAY OR
EVEN EVERY DECADE HERE OR AROUND
THE WORLD. I THINK SOME 20 COMPANIES
HAVE EXSPRESSED AN INTEREST IN
BIDDING ON THIS PROJECT. THE WORLD
HAS MOVED FORWARD IN ITS THINKING THESE INTER-
NATIONAL FIRMS AS WELL AS OUR OWN
ARE ACCUSTOMED TO THESE PROPOSALS
ITS JUST THE COST OF DOING BUSINESS
WHAT WE ARE WANTING IN THIS
AGREEMENT IS NOT THE NONSENSE
BEING SPOUTED IN AD'S BY EVERY-
ONES FAVORITE OCTOGENARIAN BILLIONAIRE
WE ARE TALKING ABOUT LIFE'S BASICS
AIR, WORK, HOME, THE FUNDAMENTALS
EVERYONE IN THIS STATE EXPECTS

THERE ARE OTHER VALID POINTS AS WELL. WHEN PEOPLE PASS OVER THAT BRIDGE WHAT DO WE WANT THEM TO SEE? BLIGHT. DO WE WANT AIR QUALITY SO BAD THAT WE HAND OUT CURTESY MASKS AT CUSTOMS? IF PEOPLE ARE ONLY PASSING THRUE DO WE WANT THEM TO THANK THERE LUCKY STARS THAT THEY ARE? OR DO WE WANT THEM TO REGRET THEY CAN'T STAY TO EXPLORE?

THIS AREA IS GROUND ZERO FOR SO MUCH OF MICHIGANS HISTORY AND LIKE IT OR NOT IT'S OUR STATE'S FRONT DOOR TO THE WORLD WILL WE MAKE IT SO, THAT PEOPLE WILL WANT TO COME INTO OUR HOUSE? OR STAY ON THE STEPS, OR MAYBE BACK UP TO THE CURB. DO WE WANT PEOPLES PERCEPTION OF US STILL FIXED ON OUR BEING A DYING RUST BELT STATE OR THAT WE ARE SOME PLACE MARVELOUS AND UNIQUE. THIS AFFECTS EVERYONE IN MICHIGAN. WHY DO WE WANT TO SABOTAGE OUR EFFORTS TO ATTRACT RESIDENTS CAPITAL AND INDUSTRY. SELF-INTEREST ALONE SHOULD MAKE EVERY RESIDENT OF OUR STATE A SUPPORTER OF THIS.

ITS UP TO YOU.
AND WHEN YOUR SITTING IN YOUR HOUSE OF WORSHIP THIS WEEKEND PLEASE CONSIDER WHAT YOUR TRUE MOTIVATION IS WHEN YOU VOTE ON THIS,

WHATEVER IS TRUE, WHATEVER IS NOBLE WHATEVER IS JUST, WHATEVER IS PURE WHATEVER IS LOVELY, WHATEVER IS ADMIRABLE -- IF ANYTHING IS EXCELLENT OR PRAISEWORTHY -- THINK ABOUT SUCH THINGS. PHIL 4:6-9

RESPECTFULLY
ELAINE MASBOUTH
Ela Masbouth