

October 17, 2012

**TESTIMONY OF JOHN JAMIAN
Executive Director
Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority
Senate Transportation Committee
Senator Tom Casperson, Chairman**

Dear Chairman and Members of the Senate Transportation Committee.

Greetings: my name is John Jamian and it is, indeed, a great honor to present our Port Authority to this committee.

I also come before you as the former United States Department of Transportation Maritime Administration's Deputy and Acting Administrator and State Lawmaker.

The Port of Detroit has a fascinating history that began with Antoine de la Mothe Cadillac who was a famous explorer, appointed by the King of France, to discover and claim new territory for the country of France.

Explorer Cadillac founded Detroit in 1701 when he planted the flag of France at the foot of what is now Griswold Street. Detroit's geographical location, between the upper and lower Great Lakes, provided a natural and reliable access, via water route, to several forest, animal furs and mining materials.

In 1749, concerted efforts were begun to strengthen and develop Detroit as the economic and political center of the region. It's ironic that even back then, incentives such as grants of land and equipment were offered to attract more settlers to the region.

The French moved on as the British came in, only to find themselves ultimately replaced by the new Americans. The City of Detroit continued to prosper for the next 200 plus years because of its founding as a Port City.

I could tell you fascinating stories about how we recently found French and British canons resting peacefully at the bottom of the Detroit River for all of these centuries but that is really not what I am here to talk about today.

I am here to tell you about how the Port of Detroit (Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority) plays a pivotal role in Wayne County's economy. One would conclude that, since it is the Port of Detroit, the economic impact is only local; however, I would disagree with that- as our port is the State of Michigan's only true deep-water international port. Therefore, we process international cargo for manufacturing facilities and construction industries all over our State.