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Congress of the United States
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COMMITTEE ON
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COMMITTEE ON
EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE
COMMITTEE ON
OVERSIGHT AND GOVERNMENT REFORM

March 5, 2018

The Honorable David MacNaughton
Ambassador
Embassy of Canada
501 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C., 20001

Dear Ambassador MacNaughton,

I write to follow up on our recent phone call on the pressing matter of the Bluewater Ferry, specifically the landing in Sombra, Ontario, that is in urgent need of repair.

On January 11th of this year, ice floes destroyed the causeway that connects the ferry's dock to the shore on the Canadian side of the St. Clair River. The cost of repairing the damages has been estimated to be at least \$2.5 million. Local officials, constituents, and businesses from both countries have urged action and attention from the provincial and federal government, and I add my voice to those calls.


As you know, there are limited crossings that connect Canada to Michigan. These connections are vital to both our nations and communities on either side of the border. Having multiple crossing facilitates faster cross border movement and also creates redundancies should any of the crossings experience failures. Any event that closes one of these connections has real and immediate impacts on commerce and travel, and the longer these reductions last the greater the economic and communal impact.

The Bluewater Ferry carries tens of thousands of cars, trucks, and pedestrians each year and generates millions of dollars of economic activity. Its continued closure means this traffic must divert to other crossings, or that our constituents simply refrain from crossing the border. This has a direct negative impact on the local communities, and also harms both Michigan and Ontario's budgets. The Bluewater Ferry's importance to communities on both sides of the river cannot be overstated.

I accordingly urge your government to be an active and substantial partner in ensuring this crossing reopens quickly. I further request an update on what actions have been taken to date by the Canadian provincial and federal government, what resources and remedies your country has to assist in the repairs, and what next steps Canada will take to ensure this crossing reopens.

Thank you for your prompt and full attention to this matter. I look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



PAUL MITCHELL
Member of Congress