

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

February 13, 2026

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President of the United States
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20530

Mr. President,

We write today to express our strong support for the planned opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge. This critical conduit of international commerce will bring jobs to the United States and support our long-standing relationship with Canada. Your recent comments put those benefits and years of bipartisan work towards the opening of the bridge in jeopardy.

Canada continues to be one of our largest trading partners. While figures are still only partial for 2025, more than \$660 billion in goods have been traded across the U.S. and Canadian borders, making our neighbors to the north our country's most voluminous trading partner behind Mexico. No state better embodies this relationship than Michigan, where – for the first eleven months of 2025 – our state imported nearly \$40 billion in Canadian goods while exporting more than \$19 billion in goods to Canada, continuing a multi-decade trend in which Michigan has been one of the top two states for exports to and imports from Canada. With the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge allowing more capacity for trade flow, it is not far-fetched to suggest that those figures will only increase, cementing Michigan as the most economically significant state to the trade relationship between the United States and Canada.

Your recent comments regarding the opening of the Gordie Howe International Bridge have come as a shock, given your historic support for the bridge. In 2017, you made a joint statement with then-Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau saying, in part, “We look forward to the expeditious completion of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which will serve as a vital economic link between our two countries.” In 2020, during your first term, the U.S. General Services Administration negotiated and entered into an agreement with Canada’s Windsor-Detroit Bridge Authority for the facilities that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) will operate from at the bridge. And just weeks ago, on January 30, 2026, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) published a rule formally establishing the Gordie Howe International Bridge as a port of entry for both immigration and customs purposes and describing the importance of the project. Not only have you seemingly approved of this project, but you have also taken every step to ensure its success.

As members of Congress from Michigan, we understand and share your desire to reduce offshoring of U.S. businesses while increasing the supply of good-paying American jobs. For our state, these opportunities are our lifeblood and have supported generations of Michiganders. Often times, our unique and highly integrated relationship with Canada has contributed to that economic development. Therefore, threatening the opening of this essentially completed project will do just the opposite to our shared goal. Businesses will suffer, jobs will be lost, and our local, state, and national economies will

undoubtedly face significant damage. The Gordie Howe International Bridge has been decades in the making, and allowing traffic to flow will ensure that generations of Michigan families and communities can experience the economic prosperity that so many before them have.

For that reason, we implore you to work with the Canadian government, including Prime Minister Carney, to address our ongoing trade relationship as a separate issue, for which we stand ready to assist. But as these discussions move forward, it is essential that the Gordie Howe International Bridge open as planned later this year.

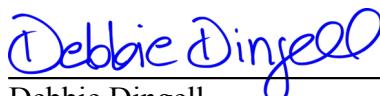
Sincerely,



Gary C. Peters
United States Senator



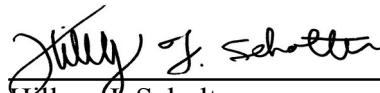
Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator



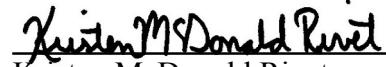
Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Haley M. Stevens
Member of Congress



Hillary J. Scholten
Member of Congress



Kristen McDonald Rivet
Member of Congress



Shri Thanedar
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
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