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**ONTARIO  
CHAMBER of  
COMMERCE**

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## **Major Trade Groups Support Windsor Border Crossing Process**

Detroit – The Detroit River International Crossing (DRIC) team is on the right track in moving forward with solutions to inefficient and inadequate border crossings. All levels of government must re-commit themselves to expediting solutions to the bottlenecks at the Windsor-Detroit border.

The Ontario Trucking Association, the Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association are satisfied that the process is on track and confident that the DRIC process will produce a solution in late 2007, improving the flow of Canada-US trade through the Windsor-Detroit area while respecting community concerns.

“Some of the proponents of various crossing proposals may be disappointed in the results, but the DRIC team is doing its job. They are doing the necessary technical work, they are being sensitive to local community impacts, and they are scoping things down,” said OTA President David Bradley. OTA has been a vocal critic of the lack of action on short and medium term infrastructure investment on the Windsor side of the border and at times the pace of the bi-national process.

However, says Bradley, “the opportunity for effective short-term relief from an infrastructure point of view is long past; various proposals which may have been beneficial were not able to muster the required support. In future we believe that governments need to review the environmental impact process to ensure that it can work more efficiently and effectively, but for now it behooves all of us to support the process now and once its final recommendations come out.”

“The current situation where trucks have to drive through the heart of Windsor’s west end community is unsustainable. It’s not good for the Canadian and US economies, it’s not good for the trucks that carry that trade, and it’s not good for local community.”

Expectation is high that the DRIC process will result in recommendations to governments for the creation of a new border crossing in the Windsor Detroit area that will get truck-traffic off Huron-Church roads and onto a free-flowing highway-to-highway connection into the US. This would ensure efficient movement of cross-border trade with less disruption to the local community.

Len Crispino, President and CEO of the Ontario Chamber of Commerce said, “We know that borders are the chokepoints of our economy. Failing to find workable solutions in the near-term is not acceptable. Each day millions of dollars are lost because of preventable delays.”

Gerry Fedchun, the President of the Automotive Parts Manufacturers Association called the Windsor-Detroit gateway “the vital lifeline of the automotive industry in the north-east part of North America. Without an efficient border crossing in the Windsor Detroit area the automotive industry in this part of the country will continue to lose investment and jobs.”

The Automotive Parts Manufacturers, the Ontario Trucking Association and the Ontario Chamber of Commerce know that efficient borders will attract new investment and new jobs needed for a strong and vibrant economy while delays caused by inefficient borders continue to threaten Ontario’s economic well-being.

The DRIC process to find a solution that will ensure the timely and efficient flow of parts across the border is critical to our economic and physical security. To date, they have taken the first important steps towards identifying solutions and the business groups urge them to continue to press ahead as quickly as possible towards refining their work and coming up with recommendations that Canadian and US governments can implement without delay.

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