

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-2202

January 29, 2013

Secretary Janet Napolitano
Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

I write to support the inclusion of bicycle and pedestrian access on the New International Trade Crossing (NITC) Bridge that is under development in Detroit. As you may know, the bridge designs that came out of the environmental review process do accommodate bicyclists and pedestrians. However, it is my understanding that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and its Canadian counterpart, the Customs and Border Services Agency have the authority to determine whether pedestrian and bicycle traffic be allowed.

There are many benefits of a year-round cycling connection between Detroit and Windsor, including by bolstering the cycle tourism in the region. For instance, a number of organizations, including the State of Michigan, are working on a U.S. Bicycle Route System with Michigan leading the nation in getting new U.S. Bicycle Routes. Several of these routes go through Detroit and would be enhanced if they allowed cycling tourists to cross into Canada. There are also efforts underway to establish an Underground Railroad Bicycle Route from Mobile, Alabama to Owen Sound, Ontario. With no crossing in Detroit, cyclists must ride north to the ferry in Marine City, missing much of the Underground Railroad history in Detroit and Southeast Ontario. Finally, tourists coming from Toronto to Windsor by Bike Train currently cannot now visit Detroit by bike.

Given the many potential benefits of a bicycle and pedestrian connection between Detroit and Windsor I hope you will allow it.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Carl Levin

CL/amp