



STATE OF NEW YORK
EXECUTIVE CHAMBER
ALBANY 12224

ANDREW M. CUOMO
GOVERNOR

June 20, 2012

The Honorable Janet Napolitano
Secretary of Homeland Security
3801 Nebraska Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20393

Dear Secretary Napolitano:

On December 7, 2011, President Obama and Prime Minister Harper announced the completion of an Action Plan to implement the "Beyond the Border - A Shared Vision for Perimeter Security and Economic Competitiveness." As you know, the purpose of the agreement is to speed legitimate trade and travel across the border, improve security in North America, and align regulatory approaches between the two countries. New York State's strong relationship with Canada will help achieve the Beyond the Border Action Plan action items. I write to you in support of the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority's ("Peace Bridge Authority") proposal to locate the truck cargo facilitation pilot program at the Peace Bridge crossing between Buffalo, New York and Fort Erie, Ontario.

The Peace Bridge is particularly well-suited to meet the goals of this initiative given the critical nature of the crossing to freight and tourism. The Buffalo/Niagara Falls crossings represent the busiest and most important trade and tourism corridor between Canada and New York. Overall, they are the third busiest freight crossing between Canada and the United States. In 2011, more than \$81.9 billion worth of goods was facilitated at the crossings, representing about 17% of all trade between the two countries.

Additionally, the Peace Bridge Authority has a long standing, solid working relationship with federal and Canadian agencies. The Peace Bridge Authority previously worked closely with the Federal Highway Administration to study a new replacement bridge. Further, the Peace Bridge site has previously been selected as the pilot for a shared border crossing initiative, given the expansive land holdings in Fort Erie, Ontario and the constrained customs plaza in Buffalo, New York.

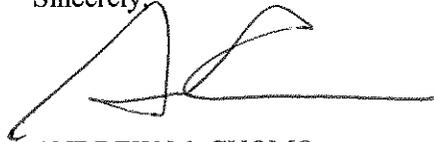
Locating commercial primary inspections in Canada would allow even greater efficiency, safety and security at the port of entry. If selected for this initiative, the pre-screening could be accommodated by moving the Customs and Border Protection primary processing facility to Canada. Primary processing would occur in Canada, and the results would be messaged ahead to the enforcement and release booths on the U.S. side of the bridge. It is expected that 90% of the commercial vehicles would be released



based on this pre-screening, with the remaining 10% held for additional inspection. The result is a more efficient flow of traffic at one of the nation's busiest US/Canadian crossings, and an ability to provide additional safety and security within the space that would be made available at the U.S. plaza.

The Peace Bridge Authority and my administration look forward to partnering with the Department of Homeland Security and Public Safety Canada to showcase an "early win" demonstration of the joint use of technology and cooperation to improve both security and efficiency. I hope that you will give the Peace Bridge your highest consideration in choosing this pilot location.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'A. Cuomo', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

ANDREW M. CUOMO