

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

MEDIA RELEASE

February 27, 2013

Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce Advocates to Keep Border Flowing in Light of Fiscal Uncertainty in the U.S.

Windsor, ON – Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce President & CEO Matt Marchand worked with Canadian and U.S. Chambers and other stakeholders to co-sign a letter to the White House (Office of Management and Budget) urging appropriate levels of funding for the border. This letter was sent to the White House on January 10, 2013 as a pre-emptive measure in light of the fiscal uncertainty in the U.S.

The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce has been in ongoing communication with its members who identified keeping the border flowing and jobs as a top issue.

The sequestration budget cuts scheduled for March 1, 2013, could mean significant cuts across all agencies in the U.S. which could include personnel at the Canada-U.S. Border.

The letter suggests that U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) focus on ways to utilize their existing staff more efficiently, including expanding trusted traveler programs, aggressively implementing the Trade Transformation Agenda, and evaluating additional methods for increasing efficiency at the border.

“We’re continually working on behalf of our Chamber members to advocate on jobs, taxes, economic growth and border issues,” said Marchand. “The Windsor-Essex Chamber and its partners are constantly being aggressive to keep our issues front and centre of governments on both sides of the border.”

The Windsor-Detroit border is the most dynamic and important trading portal in the world. More than 8,000 trucks cross the Windsor-Detroit border on a daily basis, and according to the Public Border Operators Association, truck traffic is projected to increase 128% over the next 30 years. The value of trade over the Ambassador Bridge alone (more than \$120 billion in 2011) exceeds the value of all trade between the U.S. and Great Britain. One-quarter of all U.S.-Canada trade crosses the bridge each year, which makes the Ambassador Bridge the most important bridge crossing anywhere in the world.

-30-

For more information contact:
Lindsey Rivait
Communications Coordinator
Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce
lrivait@windsorchamber.org
(519) 966-3696 ext. 25