

WINDSOR-ESSEX REGIONAL Chamber of Commerce

Media Release

November 6, 2012

Proposition 6 Headed for Defeat – Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce and its Partners Appear Successful in its Get the Facts Campaign

Windsor, Ontario – The Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce is heartened that Michigan voters have appeared to vote against Proposition 6 with nearly 30% of the vote in. The Proposition was headed for defeat by a 62% to 38% margin. If adopted, Michigan's Proposal 6 would have hindered the construction of a new bridge and rail tunnel. The new international trade crossing(s) are expected to create tens of thousands of jobs in construction and secure tens of thousands of international jobs dependent on trade between Canada and the U.S.

Earlier in a campaign to encourage voters to "Get the Facts" on Proposal 6, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber teamed up with the Ontario and Canadian Chambers to send a letter to its members to get the facts. Last week, the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce sent out an additional letter to its members, including more information and a call to pass the facts along to their friends, family, and colleagues.

In September, with our partners the Detroit and Grand Rapids Chambers, the Windsor-Essex Chamber made the new international trade crossing the number one issue at the West Michigan Policy Forum representing Chambers across Michigan. "This was an important event for Chambers across Michigan to join with Windsor-Essex in making our border the number one issue. Governor Rick Snyder made that point clear in his speech to the delegates," said Matt Marchand, President & CEO of the Windsor-Essex Regional Chamber of Commerce, who attended the Policy Forum.

This would not have been possible without the extraordinary effort of Consul General of Canada Roy Norton, Michigan Governor Rick Snyder, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Detroit Regional Chamber of Commerce, West Michigan Policy Forum, Ontario Chamber of Commerce, and the Canadian Chamber of Commerce.

"I'd also like to personally thank my Chamber colleagues Perrin Beatty, President & CEO of the Canadian Chamber, and Allan O'Dette, President & CEO of the Ontario Chamber, for their tireless work on this issue. Without their outstanding and timely work, we would not have been able to successfully advocate for new border infrastructure," said Marchand.

"While we appear to be successful in getting Proposition 6 shelved, this is not a time to rest. We must be relentless and aggressive to get these projects built. If anything, this gives us additional momentum for new border infrastructure, including the bridge and rail tunnel," Marchand added.

"The Ontario Chamber and its 60,000 members welcome this apparent outcome. Building this bridge will benefit businesses and create jobs on both sides of the border. The bridge is a huge step in enhancing the entire region's ability to compete globally," said O'Dette.

The new international trade crossing will create thousands of construction jobs and long-term employment opportunities on both sides of the border and reduce delays due to congestion as well as the significant costs associated with them.

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