

300 N. WASHINGTON SQ.  
LANSING, MI 48913

517.373.9808

MICHIGANADVANTAGE.ORG



**EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

MATTHEW P. CULLEN  
Chair  
Rock Ventures LLC

PHILIP H. POWER  
Vice-Chair  
The Center for Michigan

D. GREGORY MAIN  
President and CEO

JOHN W. BROWN  
Stryker Corporation

DR. DAVID E. COLE  
Center for  
Automotive Research

JOANN CRARY  
Saginaw Future Inc.

DR. HAIFA FAKHOURI  
Arab American and  
Chaldean Council

STEVEN K. HAMP  
Hamp Advisors, LLC

PAUL HILLEGONDS  
DTE Energy Company

GEORGE W. JACKSON JR.  
Detroit Economic  
Growth Corporation

BIRGIT M. KLOHS  
The Right Place, Inc.

F. THOMAS LEWAND  
Bodman LLP

STEVEN LIEDEL  
Office of  
Governor Jennifer Granholm

JEFF METTS  
Dowding Industries, Inc.

DR. IRVIN D. REID  
Wayne State University

SANFORD "SANDY" RING  
Hino Motors  
Manufacturing U.S.A., Inc.

MICHAEL B. STAEBLER  
Pepper Hamilton LLP

TODD A. WYETT  
Versa Development, LLC

October 11, 2010

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
Member of Congress  
2328 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Dingell,

I write to you today to inquire about the status of the upcoming TIGER II Discretionary Grant Awards. As you know this funding is critical to the State of Michigan, and we are hoping that we will be successful in bring significant funding to infrastructure projects across the state, including the rebuilding of the East Stadium Boulevard Bridges in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

As the federal representative for the City of Ann Arbor, I know you are well aware of the critical condition of these bridges and the impact they have on the City and Washtenaw County. However, these bridges serve a larger purpose for the economic development of Ann Arbor and Michigan through their role in facilitating access to the University of Michigan (UM). UM is a leader in higher education, consistently rated among the nation's top public universities. The research generated at the University spurs spin off business development in the areas of automotive engineering, health care, and scientific development. These research expenditures exceeded \$1.1 billion last year. Furthermore, UM serves an integral role in the University Research Corridor, which has contributed \$14.8 billion in economic stimulus to Michigan since 2007.

Therefore, you can understand the importance of maintaining access to the University through upgrades in our region's infrastructure at East Stadium Boulevard. These bridges carry over 48,000 vehicles per day, connecting to UM's Big House, which houses over 109,000 fans on a game day. The University itself is home to 42,000 students and more than 35,000 employees, which live and work in communities throughout Southeast Michigan. In the coming months UM will add 3,000 more jobs to the North Campus Research Complex, the former Pfizer Research facility, as well as 500 jobs at the new C.S. Mott Children's Hospital when it opens in 2011.

The Honorable John D. Dingell  
October 11, 2010  
Page 2



The East Stadium Boulevard Bridges serve as an example of how critical infrastructure projects are to economic development in Southeast Michigan. Michigan cannot continue to attract new business development, without making our communities safe and accessible to future employers, employees and their families.

Michigan Economic Development Corporation is hopeful that this project will be funded, and will enable the City of Ann Arbor and the University of Michigan to continue to serve as a role model for great economic development opportunities in the State of Michigan. We look forward to hearing from you regarding any developments in the TIGER II Discretionary Grant announcements.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Gregory Main". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "D" and "G".

D. Gregory Main  
President and CEO

Cc: The Honorable John Hieftje, Mayor, City of Ann Arbor