

1 HJR147
2 150135-1
3 By Representatives Merrill and Mask
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 07-MAR-13

8 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NEW
9 INTERNATIONAL TRADE CROSSING BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND
10 CANADA.

11
12 WHEREAS, Canada is the largest foreign trade partner
13 for the United States and the largest foreign trade partner
14 for 35 states; and

15 WHEREAS, the current bridge between Detroit,
16 Michigan, and Windsor, Canada, is 83 years old, yet it alone
17 carries 25 percent of all United States-Canada trade,
18 consisting of 20,000 vehicles and approximately \$350 million
19 in value daily; and

20 WHEREAS, eight million jobs in the United States
21 depend on United States-Canada trade, and two million
22 Americans rely on the 83-year-old bridge between Detroit and
23 Windsor for their livelihood; and

24 WHEREAS, plans are underway to build an additional
25 international border crossing system over the Detroit River,
26 to be known as the New International Trade Crossing,

1 consisting of a six-lane bridge with three lanes bound for the
2 United States and three lanes bound for Canada, connected to
3 new United States and Canadian inspection plazas; and

4 WHEREAS, the New International Trade Crossing will
5 have an enormous economic impact on the United States economy,
6 creating 10,000 construction jobs and more than 25,000
7 indirect jobs in the United States during the construction
8 period; and

9 WHEREAS, Michigan and Canada are pursuing a
10 public-private partnership that will seek to maximize private
11 sector participation and financing by allowing for public
12 ownership of the bridge and private financing, construction,
13 operation, and maintenance of the bridge while protecting the
14 public interest; and

15 WHEREAS, the State of Michigan needs legislative
16 authority to enter into the public-private partnership and to
17 enter into an agreement with Canada to build the New
18 International Trade Crossing; and

19 WHEREAS, a modern border crossing that can support
20 the ever-increasing amount of trade and travel between the
21 United States and Canada is essential to the economy of the
22 United States; now therefore,

23 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
24 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we express our support for the
25 New International Trade Crossing project; and we urge the
26 adoption of necessary legislation to facilitate the project.

