



October 3, 2007

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
City of Hamilton
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, ON
L8P 4Y5

Via the City Clerk's office

Dear Mayor Eisenberger,

On behalf of the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce, I would like to state our continued support for the construction of the Niagara - GTA Trade Corridor.

With respect to the recent presentation given to council by Dr. Paula Dowell, of Wilbur Smith Associates, the Hamilton Chamber of Commerce would also like to show our strong support for this study and its findings, and ask Council to consider the results as imperative to the well being of our city.

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce has supported this trade corridor since its inception; recognizing the importance of this project as a vital step in meeting the present and future economic, social, cultural and public health needs of our community.

Please keep in mind we are not the only business organization who recognize the importance of this trade corridor. The Ontario Chamber of Commerce, which represents 59,000 businesses in 140 communities across the province, also strongly supports the corridor, thus strengthening the importance of its completion.

As Dr. Dowell mentioned in her report, this project is not just about attracting new business, it's also about preventing the loss of existing businesses. The study identified that failure to invest in the Niagara - GTA Corridor would result in the loss of \$2.4 billion in income and more than 30,000 jobs in Hamilton and Niagara by 2030. This is a situation that the people of Hamilton cannot afford.

Hamilton has struggled through hardships in industry: the loss of jobs, the reliance on social services for a significant number of its citizens and a 20 per cent poverty rate. This corridor has the potential to greatly increase both jobs and revenue.

As Dr. Dowell's study reported, this corridor will be a catalyst for new enhanced economic opportunities estimating 130,000 to 170,000 new jobs created in the Niagara - GTA region, with nearly \$7 to \$9 billion in additional income and \$3.4 to \$4.4 billion in new tax revenue.

How can we not support that potential growth?

Sincerely,

Tyler MacLeod
President
Hamilton Chamber of Commerce