

August 3, 2016

The Honorable Carl Levin
SR 269 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Debbie Stabenow
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Levin and Stabenow:

I write to alert you to an important Michigan-related amendment that was included in the House-passed FY2003 Treasury, Postal Operations Appropriations Act. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and encourage you to sponsor similar language when the Senate considers its version.

The influx of Canadian waste is a serious problem for our home state of Michigan, as more than 4.2 million cubic yards of Canadian waste was imported to our state's landfills in 2000, an 80% increase from the previous year. Further, Toronto is scheduled to close down its last remaining landfill and will continue to make Michigan a dumping ground for their unwanted household trash. Despite our state's efforts to ensure sufficient landfill space for our own needs for 20 years into the future, Canadian trash is rapidly reducing that life span to fewer than 10 years.

My successful amendment to the Treasury, Postal Operations Appropriations bill adds funding for six new United States Customs agents specifically to inspect incoming trash semi-trucks at the Blue Water and Ambassador Bridges. With the planned closure of the last remaining landfill in the Toronto area, the 160 trucks crossing the border everyday will escalate to 250 daily truckloads of dirty diapers, food scraps, bottles and cans, and many unknown and possibly dangerous items. We at least owe it to our constituents to be able to look them in the eye and tell them what's being dumped in their backyards. The only way we can do that is by getting our hands dirty and inspecting the garbage to ensure it complies with all environmental, health and trade regulations.

Again, thank you for your attention to this matter, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can provide additional details. I hope you will work to ensure this important amendment is included in the U.S. Senate version of the FY2003 Treasury, Postal Operations Appropriations bill, which will ensure its ultimate inclusion in the legislation's final Conference Report.

Sincerely,

Mike Rogers
Member of Congress