

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2004

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Federal Highway Administration
400 Seventh Street, SW
Washington, DC 20590

As you may know, the United States and Canada have reached a benchmark agreement to move all primary and secondary Customs operations to the Canadian side of the Peace Bridge between Buffalo New York and Ft. Erie Ontario.

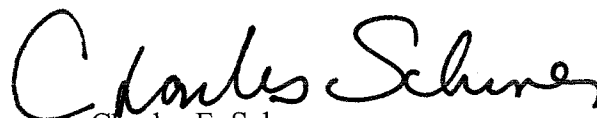
I am writing today to urged the Federal Highway Administration, the lead agency in the federal process that oversees the bridge expansion project, to officially endorse a reduced US plaza in its Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS).

Up until now, the FHWA has not officially included a reduced US plaza design in its environmental study as a "reasonable alternative." Now that the US and Canada have agreed on a Shared Border Management plan that will move all of the plaza infrastructure to Canada, I respectfully request that the reduced plaza design should be put in the DEIS as the top option.

Business, community, and elected leaders in both Canada and the United States are finally united behind a plan for the Peace Bridge. Your agency's official endorsement of it could cement this accord, and I would be happy to put the full resources of my offices available to you to speed this process along.

Thank you very much for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator