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HEADLINE: We owe Moroun debt of gratitude

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BODY:

Like it or not, the residents and business community of this region owe Mr. Matty Moroun and his International Bridge Co. a big debt of gratitude. Since 1929, we have depended on the Ambassador Bridge for shipping millions of tons of freight, manufactured or grown, in this area.

Most of the auto-related sector production and nearly all of the greenhouse produce has found its way to export markets via the bridge. Thousands of area jobs and millions of dollars in commerce depend on the daily flow of goods and merchandise south of the border.

Mr. Moroun has expressed a vital need to rebuild the superstructure and maintain the integrity of the bridge, lest it become more hazardous and risk collapse.

Barring lane closures and serious gridlock to accommodate those repairs he wants to incorporate a second span from which he can readily use as a launch for trucks, cranes and machinery to perform those essential tasks.

His efforts have been met by every conceivable stonewall to block his requests. The Canadian government has denied him permits to proceed with the necessary work.

His entire cause has been undermined with an attempt to bribe the state of Michigan with \$550 million of Canadian taxpayers' money to endorse another bridge location in a downriver location fraught with underground caverns from abandoned salt mines.

Should Mr. Moroun be forced to close his bridge for the repairs that are so desperately needed, the ensuing devastation to the local economy would be catastrophic.

MARV SOKULSKY, Windsor

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