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April 18, 2017

Mayor Fred Eisenberger
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West
Hamilton, Ontario
L8P 4Y5

Mayor Eisenberger:

We are writing to let you know that the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), Local 793, supports Hamilton Light Rail Project. Our members believe that this project is an important and logical transportation infrastructure and the future prosperity of the City of Hamilton. We align ourselves with other major stakeholders forming the economic fabric of greater Hamilton, including the Chamber of Commerce, The Hamilton Builders Association, Arcelor Mittal Dofasco, education and health care institutions in support for this project. This is a generational infrastructure project that will position Hamilton to not only exceed its growth potential as a 21st century City.

IUOE, Local 793 represents thousands of crane and heavy equipment operators in Hamilton and the construction industry. Hundreds of our members and their families call Hamilton their home. Hamiltonians that help build the roads and bridges we travel on, the subways and LRTs we ride in, and the offices we work in. We also build pipelines, stadiums, refineries, subdivisions, and work in landfills, mines and quarries.

The numerous direct and indirect jobs this project will support during construction and post commissioning of the LRT is essential to the growth and health of Hamilton as a city and the residents that call Hamilton their home. Although there will be inconveniences during the construction phase, area businesses, such as hotels, stores and restaurants will also benefit from the presence of work crews during project construction. Completion of the project will modernize our City and will provide much needed stimulus for all areas along the route, attract new development, existing property redevelopment, attract new businesses and ensure a continuing flow of benefits to the City of Hamilton and thousands of hard working Hamiltonians.

Hamilton, like many other large cities in Ontario has a growing infrastructure deficit, where crumbling watermain and associated utility infrastructure are in need of replacement. It has been reported that the City of Hamilton alone this deficit is approximately \$3 Billion dollars. What has only recently been made public and we believe should be championed is the fact that throughout the proposed route of the LRT, a significant portion of the cost associated with the construction of the LRT is the replacement, upgrade and repair of unseen infrastructure. The City can now repurpose allocated infrastructure tax dollars to other infrastructure projects and start to narrow this deficit much sooner in other areas of the city where repairs, upgrades and modernization may not be seen for years.

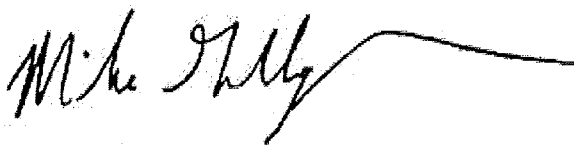
Where would other Canadian cities like Toronto, Ottawa, Vancouver, or Montreal be today without investments in mass transit infrastructure? Further to that, all of the world's major cities have a robust transit infrastructure, which include an amalgamation of transit services, all functioning as one cohesive transit system. All of these cities have one thing in common; they all saw the bigger picture and "anchor" service such as a subway or LRT and radiated complementary services like buses based on demographics. These systems work cohesively and can evolve as their respective resident need. Those who didn't build, because of the squeaky voices from a minority of naysayers and skeptics are not ranking in the top 100 cities in the world, and in fact are now congested, underdeveloped, underperforming economically. We could also argue the need to develop environmentally friendly infrastructure, but instead of a letter, you would be reading a thesis.

We have listened to the arguments for the last seven years, and weighed the project on its benefits. This is an opportunity we cannot take a pass on.

Let me close by encouraging city council to approve.

On behalf of our members, we urge you and your colleagues on City Council to support this transformative city building project.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Gallagher", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mike Gallagher,
Business Manager – Local 793
International Vice President