



Transport
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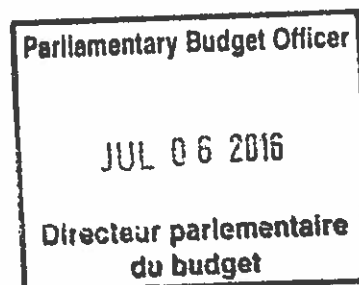
Deputy Minister

Sous-ministre

Place de Ville
Ottawa ON K1A 0N5

JUL 06 2016

Mr. Jean-Denis Fréchette
Parliamentary Budget Officer
Library of Parliament
Parliament Buildings
Ottawa ON K1A 0R9



RE: Information Request IR0224

Dear Mr. Fréchette:

Thank you for your letter, dated June 22, 2016, regarding Information Request IR0224, in which you request a copy of the Bridge Operating Agreement signed between Strait Crossing Development Inc. and the Government of Canada, as well as a copy of the most recent Annual Report submitted by Strait Crossing Development Inc.'s Auditor to Transport Canada, as specified under section 8.3 (b) of the Bridge Operating Agreement.

The data requested falls under the authority of section 79.2(d) of the *Parliament of Canada Act* which mandates the Parliamentary Budget Officer to estimate the financial cost of any proposal that relates to a matter over which Parliament has jurisdiction and provides access to any financial or economic data in possession of a department to Parliamentary Budget Office officials.

However, the Bridge Operating Agreement contains certain non-disclosure provisions which prohibit the disclosure of confidential information, including both the Bridge Operating Agreement itself, and the Auditor's Report submitted to Transport Canada. These documents constitute confidential financial and commercial information provided to Transport Canada by a third party, and as such would be exempt from disclosure under section 20(1)(b) of the *Access to Information Act*.

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I am pleased to provide you with the financial data requested. However I would point out that both the Bridge Operating Agreement and Auditor's Report are subject to the confidentiality obligations contained in section 79.4 of the *Parliament of Canada Act*, and that their contents may not be disclosed unless such disclosure is essential to the performance of your mandate.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Michael Keenan", is written over the printed name. The signature is stylized and somewhat illegible due to overlapping strokes.

Enclosures