

U.S. SENATOR

**Debbie STABENOW**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **Stabenow Rallies Public In Fight Against Canadian Trash**

*Petition Calls on House Leadership to Support Stabenow Anti-Trash Legislation*

U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow today launched a petition drive to rally support for her recently passed Senate legislation imposing a \$420 inspection fee on Canadian trash trucks entering Michigan. The petitions will be delivered to the leadership in the U.S. House of Representatives, sending a signal from Michigan that the House should support the Stabenow trash truck fees and include it in the final Homeland Security appropriations bill.

“We need to stand together and say ‘no’ to Canadian trash,” said Stabenow. “The safety and security of Michigan is not a partisan issue. This petition is an opportunity for everyone in Michigan who is concerned about the dangers posed by Canadian trash to have their voices heard.”

On July 13<sup>th</sup> Sen. Stabenow led the Senate in unanimously passing her legislation directing U.S. Customs & Border Patrol to charge fees of approximately \$420 per trash truck to Canadian companies dumping waste in Michigan.

Action on this vital piece of legislation now moves to a conference committee. The Senate has already shown its commitment to this important piece of legislation—leaving it up the House of Representatives to step up and do the right thing for Michigan. By signing the petition at <http://www.stabenowforsenate.com/stopcanadiantrash> you can send a message to the House of Representative that they need to include the Stabenow amendment in the final Homeland Security appropriations bill.

In addition to improved screening for security threats, the steep inspection fees in the Stabenow amendment are an important step toward stopping the flow of trash by making it unprofitable for Canada to dump its garbage in Michigan.

“Canadian trash isn’t just offensive, it’s dangerous,” stated Stabenow. “The city of Toronto said it was cheaper to send their trash to us instead of dealing with it in their own community. This fee makes sure it’s not cheaper and that we have the safety inspections we need until the trash stops.”

President Bush has refused to immediately stop the trash by using the authority available to him under an existing treaty with Canada. More than 350 trash trucks cross the border every day from Canada on their way to Michigan landfills. Department of Homeland Security reports indicate it will take four U.S. Customs agents four hours to physically inspect a single trash truck. Past inspections have turned up hazardous medical waste, radioactive materials, illegal drugs and counterfeit money. Inadequately screened Canadian trash trucks provide an attractive target for terrorists and other criminals looking to sneak illegal material across our northern border.

“Un-inspected Canadian trash trucks endanger our health, our environment, and our safety. Inspection fees are an important step in ensuring our security and putting an end to the flow of dangerous Canadian trash into Michigan,” said Stabenow. “This is a fight we have to win, and I’m not going to stop fighting until the trash stops.”

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