



**For Immediate Release**  
August 22, 2012

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## **Taxpayers Against Monopolies Taking Legal Action Against Moroun's Bridge Petitions**

*Ballot Petition Filed by "The People Should Decide" Uses Sloppy Language and Puts Michigan Bridge Projects in Jeopardy*

Lansing, Mich. – Taxpayers Against Monopolies, a coalition opposing the Moroun Families' attempt to pass a constitutional amendment to protect their Ambassador Bridge from competition, is filing a legal challenge against the ballot petition filed by "The People Should Decide" because it is legally flawed, does not meet the standards for constitutional amendments and puts Michigan bridge projects in jeopardy.

The complaint filled today with the State Board of Canvassers will challenge the statewide ballot proposal funded by international bridge-owner Manuel "Matty" Moroun, showing that the proposed amendment failed to comply with several legal requirements for filing ballot initiatives.

"The ballot petition language is sloppy and hastily written," said John Pirich, legal spokesperson for Taxpayers Against Monopolies. "The petition fails to re-publish at least three existing constitutional provisions that will be altered or abrogated. For the proposed amendment to become a part of the Michigan Constitution, reprinting the current provision is a requirement."

The language of the ballot petition may also affect every bridge in the state built after January 1, 2012.

"The language is very sloppy. The petition proposes to change the Constitution to challenge the State's authority to build any bridge or tunnel, not just international bridges and tunnels, to a statewide and local veto vote," said Mike Hodge, an attorney with Miller Canfield and legal spokesperson for Taxpayers Against Monopolies. "This puts every bridge built in Michigan since January 1, 2012, and all subsequent bridges, in jeopardy."

"The People Should Decide" has sponsored a proposed constitutional amendment to add a new section to existing Article 3, § 6 of the Michigan Constitution. If adopted, the

proposed amendment would prohibit the State of Michigan from constructing or financing any new bridge or tunnel for motor vehicle traffic unless it received prior approval from both the voters of the municipality where the new bridge or tunnel would be located and the state electorate.

Brad Williams, Vice President of the Detroit Regional Chamber, feels that Moroun is using the ballot petition to protect his own personal interests.

“This ballot proposal is nothing more than an attempt by the Moroun family to use the Michigan Constitution to protect their monopoly. No one should hijack our Constitution,” said Williams.

“We don’t need sloppy constitutional amendments in our State’s Constitution,” said Andy Johnston, Vice President of Government Affairs for the Grand Rapids Chamber. “And we certainly cannot afford to jeopardize rebuilding Michigan’s infrastructure because one company wants to protect their monopoly.”

Taxpayers Against Monopolies is a ballot question committee formed to oppose the People Should Decide ballot proposal.

An official copy of the complaint will not be available until later this afternoon.

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# INITIATIVE PETITION AMENDMENT TO THE CONSTITUTION

## FULL TEXT OF PROPOSAL

PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE MICHIGAN CONSTITUTION OF 1963 BY ADDING A NEW § 6A TO ARTICLE 3, GENERAL GOVERNMENT:

### § 6a. IMPROVEMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES OR TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES

SEC. 6a. (1) THE PEOPLE SHOULD DECIDE WHETHER STATE GOVERNMENT MAY CONSTRUCT OR FINANCE NEW INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES OR TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES. CONSISTENT WITH THIS POLICY, AND TO SHIELD THE PEOPLE FROM UNNECESSARY BURDENS, THE STATE SHALL NOT UNDERTAKE OWNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT OF OR USE STATE FUNDS OR RESOURCES FOR NEW INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES OR TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES UNLESS FIRST DETERMINED TO BE NECESSARY AND APPROPRIATE BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE PEOPLE.

(2) THE PROVISIONS IN THIS SUBSECTION (2) SHALL APPLY IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THIS SECTION.

- (a) "OWNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT" SHALL INCLUDE ALL ACTIVITIES INVOLVING AND RELATING TO ALL OR PART OF COMMENCING, CONSTRUCTING, OR FINANCING NEW INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES OR TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES, OR RELATED FACILITIES, INCLUDING BUT NOT LIMITED TO ANY ONE OR MORE OF THE FOLLOWING: OPTIONING OR ACQUIRING INTERESTS IN PROPERTY; PROMOTING, DESIGNING, BIDDING, CONTRACTING FOR, OR CONSTRUCTING; OR IN ANY MANNER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY FINANCING OR ASSISTING IN FINANCING PROPERTY ACQUISITION, DESIGN, OR CONSTRUCTION OF SUCH IMPROVEMENTS.
- (b) "STATE" SHALL INCLUDE THE STATE OF MICHIGAN, AND ANY ONE OR MORE, OR A COMBINATION OF STATE AGENCIES, AUTHORITIES, COMMISSIONS, DISTRICTS, OR OTHER SUBDIVISIONS OR INSTRUMENTALITIES OF STATE GOVERNMENT.
- (c) THE PROCEDURE FOR SEEKING A DETERMINATION BY MAJORITY VOTE OF THE PEOPLE UNDER THIS SECTION SHALL BE THAT PROCEDURE PROVIDED BY LAW FOR THE SUBMISSION AND APPROVAL OF PETITIONS TO PROPOSE, ENACT, AND REJECT LAWS BY INITIATIVE UNDER ARTICLE 2, § 9 OF THIS CONSTITUTION, WITH THE EXCEPTIONS THAT: 1) A PROPOSAL UNDER THIS SECTION MAY NOT BE APPROVED BY THE LEGISLATURE IN LIEU OF A VOTE OF THE PEOPLE; AND 2) AN APPROVAL BY THE PEOPLE SHALL REQUIRE AN AFFIRMATIVE VOTE OF A MAJORITY OF ELECTORS IN BOTH (A) THE STATE AND (B) EACH MUNICIPALITY IN WHICH IMPROVEMENTS ARE SITUATED, CONSIDERING THE IMPACT ON LOCAL SERVICES AND FACILITIES AND THAT PUBLIC OWNERSHIP AND OPERATION WOULD IMPACT LOCAL PROPERTY TAXATION.
- (d) "NEW INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES OR TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES" SHALL MEAN ANY BRIDGE OR TUNNEL WHICH IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND SERVING TRAFFIC AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012. NO VESTED RIGHTS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO ANY STATE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OR TUNNEL INITIATIVE THAT IS NOT SERVING TRAFFIC AS OF THAT DATE.
- (e) ANY AMBIGUITY IN THE INTERPRETATION OF THIS SECTION SHALL BE RESOLVED IN FAVOR OF SHIELDING THE PEOPLE FROM PRACTICAL OR FINANCIAL BURDENS ASSOCIATED WITH STATE GOVERNMENT OWNERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES AND TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES.



**(d) “NEW INTERNATIONAL BRIDGES OR TUNNELS FOR MOTOR VEHICLES” SHALL MEAN ANY BRIDGE OR TUNNEL WHICH IS NOT OPEN TO THE PUBLIC AND SERVING TRAFFIC AS OF JANUARY 1, 2012. NO VESTED RIGHTS ARE ATTRIBUTED TO ANY STATE INTERNATIONAL BRIDGE OR TUNNEL INITIATIVE THAT IS NOT SERVING TRAFFIC AS OF THAT DATE.**

# TAXPAYERS AGAINST MONOPOLIES

## 2012 Local Bridge Projects That Will Be Affected By The People Should Decide Ballot Proposal

Route	Location	County	Costs
East Washington Road	Over Bad River, Gratiot County	Gratiot	\$1,583,400
W Taft Road	Over Otter Creek, Gratiot County	Gratiot	\$1,122,030
West River Road	Over N. B. of Chippewa River, Isabella Co	Isabella	\$1,123,584
Beal City Road	Over S. B. Salt River, Isabella County	Isabella	\$989,789
Bishop Road	At Miller Drain, Saginaw County	Saginaw	\$1,552,500
South Merrill Road	Over South Branch Bad River, Saginaw Co	Saginaw	\$995,400
County Road 544	Over Flat River, Montcalm County	Montcalm	\$1,262,100
Pontaluna Road	Over Norris Creek, Muskegon County	Muskegon	\$810,000
23 Mile Road	At North Branch Clinton River, Macomb County	Macomb	\$4,800,000
26 Mile Road	At Deer Creek, Macomb County	Macomb	\$985,500
Beech Road	Over Rouge River, City of Southfield	Oakland	\$1,807,200
Avon Road	Over Clinton River, Oakland County	Oakland	\$3,645,000
Livernois Road	Over Clinton River	Oakland	\$4,030,500
S. Main Street	At Mill Creek, City of Yale	St. Clair	\$1,437,000
Lakeshore Road	Over Carrigan Drain, St Clair County	St. Clair	\$930,000
Aarwood Road NW	At Rapid River, Kalkaska County	Kalkaska	\$1,200,000
Low Bridge Road	Over Pine River, Manistee County	Manistee	\$1,200,000
220th Avenue	At Big Beaver Creek, Osceola County	Osceola	\$690,000
190th Avenue	Over Hersey River, Osceola County	Osceola	\$750,000
200th Avenue	Over Rose Lake Outlet, Osceola County	Osceola	\$690,000
638 Highway	Over Black River, Presque Isle County	Presque Isle	\$960,000
2nd Street	At Gun River, Allegan County B01	Allegan	\$1,599,753
2nd Street	At Gun River, Allegan County B03	Allegan	\$1,403,061
113th Avenue	Over N. Br. Black River	Allegan	\$1,447,000
N Michigan Avenue	Over Thornapple River, City of Hastings	Barry	\$2,655,000
Jonesville Road	Over County Drain 33, Branch County	Branch	\$515,000
Redfield Road	Over Christiana Creek, Cass County	Cass	\$1,156,000
River Street	Over Kalamazoo River, Kalamazoo Co	Kalamazoo	\$3,333,300
Kime Road	Over Fawn River, St. Joseph County	St. Joseph	\$1,002,000
Golf Course Road	over Falls River	Baraga	\$900,000
County Road Ch	Over Middle Branch Escanaba River, Marquette Co	Marquette	\$660,000
County Road 550	Over Adler Creek, Marquette County	Marquette	\$1,050,000
E Colony Road	Over Maple River, Clinton County	Clinton	\$1,245,000
E Kalamo Highway	Over Battle Creek River, Eaton County	Eaton	\$814,800
Tripp Road	At E B St. Joseph of Maumee River, Hillsdale Co	Hillsdale	\$450,000
Benner Highway	Over South Branch of River Raisin, Lenawee County	Lenawee	\$1,546,800
Lennon Road	Over Rush Bed Creek, Shiawassee County	Shiawassee	\$576,000
Willis Road	Over W Branch Paint Creek, Washtenaw County	Washtenaw	\$768,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$53,685,717</b>

# TAXPAYERS AGAINST MONOPOLIES

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## 2012 State Trunkline Bridge Projects That Will Be Affected By The People Should Decide Ballot Proposal

Route	Location	Region	Cost
M-50	5 Structures on M-50 in Eaton County	University	\$5,781,560
M-24	Over Plum Creek	Bay	\$837,200
I-75	Under James Road	Bay	\$2,825,087
M-46	M-46 Over Sucker Creek and M-25 Over Harbor Beach Creek	Bay	\$3,820,000
M-25	Over Quanicassee River	Bay	\$5,551,887
I-96	Eastbound and Westbound Over Abandoned CSX Railroad	Grand	\$3,353,000
US-24	Over Clinton River	Metro	\$1,287,000
I-75	I-75 Under I-75 Northbound	Metro	\$5,014,812
M-65	Over North Branch of Thunder Bay River	North	\$3,003,930
M-89	Over Kalamazoo River Mill Race, Plainwell	Southwest	\$1,594,000
M-139	Over Dowagiac River	Southwest	\$2,687,000
M-66	Over Wanondaga Creek	Southwest	\$1,573,200
M-331	M-331 (Park Street) Over Axtell Creek	Southwest	\$1,415,702
M-43	M-43 Eastbound (Saginaw Street) Over the Grand River	University	\$7,408,811
M-50/US-127	M-50/US-127 Business Route Over Norfolk Southern	University	\$5,124,461
US-223	Over River Raisin	University	\$2,778,910
I-96	Under 112 <sup>th</sup> Avenue	Grand	\$8,780,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$62,836,560</b>

# TAXPAYERS AGAINST MONOPOLIES

## 2013-2014 Local Bridge Projects That Will Be Affected By The People Should Decide Ballot Proposal

Gary Road	Over Shiawassee River	SAGINAW	\$2,620,500
Elmwood Road	Over Wiscoggin Drain	TUSCOLA	\$991,500
Prairie Street	Over Maple River	IONIA	\$4,500,000
Carlson Road	Over Dickerson Creek	MONTCALM	\$964,400
Luce Street	Over Sand Creek	OTTAWA	\$2,485,500
Archer Drive	Over Channel to Lake St. Clair	MACOMB	\$795,000
Chapman Road	Over Deer Creek	MACOMB	\$1,012,500
Boardman Road	Over E. Br. Coon Creek	MACOMB	\$840,000
Vernier Street	Over Swan Creek	ST. CLAIR	\$669,000
Gratiot Road	Over Pine River	ST. CLAIR	\$3,391,500
Wilkins Street	Over Grand Trunk Railroad	WAYNE	\$3,733,500
		GRAND	
Cass Road	Over Boardman River	TRAVERSE	\$3,088,580
Saddler Road	Over Pere Marquette River	LAKE	\$900,000
Old M-63	Over Little Manistee River	LAKE	\$1,200,000
Thirteen Mile Road	Over Big Bear Creek	MANISTEE	\$1,020,000
3 Mile Road	Over N. Br. Chippewa River	OSCEOLA	\$721,500
Date Road	Over Keelo Creek	BERRIEN	\$900,000
Michigan Avenue	Over Rice Creek	CALHOUN	\$1,747,500
Pulver Road	Over Rocky River	ST. JOSEPH	\$1,073,700
Floating Bridge			
Road	Over Rocky River	ST. JOSEPH	\$1,045,650
Worth Road	Over Little Brevort River	MACKINAC	\$1,012,500
EM Road	Over Mehl and Little Lake Overflow	MARQUETTE	\$825,000
Shaffer Road	At Little Cedar River, Gladwin County	GLADWIN	\$690,000
Townhall Road	Over SB Tobacco River, Gladwin Co	GLADWIN	\$1,815,000
Anton Street	Over Sebewaing River, Village of Sebewaing	HURON	\$1,791,000
W Beal City Road	Over NB Chippewa River, Isabella County	ISABELLA	\$1,095,864
W Jordan Road	Over Coldwater River, Isabella Co	ISABELLA	\$1,116,192
Frost Road	Over Swan Creek, Saginaw Co	SAGINAW	\$1,767,600
Fergus Road	Over Shiawassee River, Saginaw Co	SAGINAW	\$3,865,500
Pruess Road	Over McClellan Run Drain, Saginaw Co	SAGINAW	\$667,500
190th Avenue	Over Little Muskegon River, Mecosta Co	MECOSTA	\$1,222,500
County Road 510	Over W.B.Fish Creek, Montcalm Co	MONTCALM	\$1,208,337
Carlsen Road	Over Dickerson Creek	MONTCALM	\$965,000
New Haven Road	Over Deer Creek, Macomb County	MACOMB	\$1,507,500
Wolcott Road	Over NB Clinton River, Macomb County	MACOMB	\$1,618,500
33 Mile Road	Over Cemetery Creek, Macomb County	MACOMB	\$796,500
Hagen Road	Over Deer Creek, Macomb County	MACOMB	\$855,000
33 Mile Road	Over Highbank Creek, Macomb County	MACOMB	\$607,500
W 13 Mile Road	Over Rouge River, Oakland County	OAKLAND	\$3,144,000
Ball Street	Over Kearsley Creek, Village of Ortonville	OAKLAND	\$1,018,500
Bridge Street	Over Belle River, City of Marine City	ST. CLAIR	\$3,858,000
Riley Center Road	Over Belle River, St Clair Co	ST. CLAIR	\$2,392,500
Short Cut Road	Over Unnamed Creek, St. Clair County	ST. CLAIR	\$910,500
Pointe Drive	Over Unnamed Canal, St. Clair County	ST. CLAIR	\$1,321,500

W Front Street	Over Boardman River, Traverse City	GRAND TRAVERSE	\$1,650,000
S Washington Avenue	Over Pere Marquette Lake Bayou, Ludington	MASON	\$3,340,047
W Brinks Road	Over North Branch Clam River, Missaukee County	MISSAUKEE	\$1,087,500
23 Mile Road	Over Kalamazoo River, Calhoun County	CALHOUN	\$1,192,500
E Kilgore Road	Over Portage Creek, City of Portage	KALAMAZOO	\$1,179,000
Menge Creek Road	Over Menge Creek North, Baraga County	BARAGA	\$810,000
Menge Creek Road	Over Menge Creek South, Baraga County	BARAGA	\$810,000
Riverside Drive	Over Mission Creek, Sault Ste Marie	CHIPPEWA	\$870,000
29th Lane	Over Tacoosh River, Delta County	DELTA	\$990,000
Ten Curves Road	Over Manistique River, Schoolcraft County	SCHOOLCRAFT	\$1,425,000
Van Atta Road	Over Red Cedar River, Ingham County	INGHAM	\$1,477,500
Noble Road	Over Doan Creek, Ingham County	INGHAM	\$750,000
Gale Road	Over Willow Creek	INGHAM	\$465,000
O Brien Road	Over Sandstone Creek, Jackson County	JACKSON	\$1,012,500
Rodesiler Highway	Over Draper Drain, Lenawee County	LENAWEE	\$1,087,500
Center Road	Over Cranberry Creek, Livingston County	LIVINGSTON	\$855,000
W Layton Road	Over EB Red Cedar River, Livingston County	LIVINGSTON	\$823,500
Secor Road	Over Lockwood Drain, Monroe County	MONROE	\$580,500
S Ford Boulevard	Over Norfolk Southern RR, Washtenaw County	WASHTENAW	\$4,230,000
Peterson Road	Over Bear River	GLADWIN	\$742,500
Crapo Road	Over Bad River	GRATIOT	\$994,560
State Road	Over Drain #473	GRATIOT	\$889,560
Schock Road	Over Elm Creek	HURON	\$978,000
Leaton Road	Over Lewis Drain	ISABELLA	\$960,960
Leaton Road	Over Spring Creek	ISABELLA	\$960,960
Coleman Road	Over Big Salt River	MIDLAND	\$2,220,560
Stark Road	Over Sturgeon Creek	MIDLAND	\$1,055,150
Thomas Road	Over Allen Ext. Drain	TUSCOLA	\$975,000
Riverside Drive	Over Libhart Creek	IONIA	\$1,420,500
Long Lake Road	Over Flat River	IONIA	\$2,059,350
AAT Road	Over Mulligan Creek	MARQUETTE	\$1,050,000
County Road 550	Over Little Garlic River	MARQUETTE	\$1,050,000
St. Clair Road	Over Maple River	CLINTON	\$1,050,000
Zimmer Road	Over Red Cedar River	INGHAM	\$1,950,000
Warner Road	Over N. Br. Kalamazoo River	JACKSON	\$975,000
Cross Road	Over Kalamazoo River	JACKSON	\$975,000
Folks Road	Over S. Br. Kalamazoo River	JACKSON	\$1,050,000
Packard Road	Over Baker and May Drain	LENAWEE	\$1,057,500
Dean Road	Over Yellow River Drain	LIVINGSTON	\$882,000
Jewell Road	Over Marion Drain #2	LIVINGSTON	\$790,500
Feldkamp Road	Over Saline River	WASHTENAW	\$1,185,000
Austin Road	Over Saline River	WASHTENAW	\$1,485,000
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$121,164,970</b>



# TAXPAYERS AGAINST MONOPOLIES

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## 2013-2014 State Trunkline Bridge Projects That Will Be Affected By The People Should Decide Ballot Proposal

### 2013

Route	Location	Region	Costs
I-94	3 Bridges on I-94, Detroit	Metro	\$12,366,955
I-75	I-75 over Saginaw River, GTW RR & M-13	Bay	\$40,135,394
I-69	6 bridges - St. Clair County	Metro	\$12,841,442
I-94	4 Bridges, Saint Clair County	Metro	\$9,452,000
M-102	M-102 over Plum Creek, Wayne County	Metro	\$6,081,371
I-94	EB and WB over Hickory Creek	Southwest	\$6,513,000
M-96	M-96 (Columbia) over Raymond Road	Southwest	\$1,810,054
M-231	Over the Grand River (River Span)	Grand	\$23,000,000
M-231	Over the Grand River (Approach Spans)	Grand	\$46,000,000
M-231	Over Rich Street	Grand	\$1,500,000
M-231	Over Buchanan Street	Grand	\$1,600,000
M-231	Over Sleeper Street	Grand	\$1,600,000
M-231	Over Little Robinson Creek	Grand	\$7,500,000
I-96	At M-231	Grand	\$11,800,000
M-85	Over Rouge River, Detroit	Metro	\$47,092,500
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$229,292,716</b>

### 2014

Route	Location	Region	Costs
I-96	2 Bridges over I-96, Livonia, Wayne County	Metro	\$8,737,148
I-96	6 Bridges over I-96, Wayne County	Metro	\$10,885,774
US-10	M-47 NB and SB over US-10	Bay	\$4,345,546
M-13	Over Johnson Creek	Bay	\$2,146,716
M-15	Over Cass River	Bay	\$3,657,604
I-96	Under M-50	Grand	\$4,119,389
M-85	Over Conrail (ABANDONED)	Metro	\$4,242,402
M-22	Over Platte River	North	\$1,988,016
M-139	Over St. Joseph River, Niles	Southwest	\$5,664,000
US-131	I-94 BL (Stadium Drive) Over US-131	Southwest	\$6,934,973
I-96	US-23 NB over I-96 WB	University	\$1,635,576
I-96	5 structures in the I-96 / US-23 interchange	University	\$9,073,776
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>\$63,430,920</b>