teams provide expertise and equipment, DOE radiological assistance, fire fighters, and training for state and local law enforcement officials, the Emergency Management Agency and radioactive materials. The Federal government must be certified by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission before the container is used for shipment. The NRC will not certify the container until it undergoes a series of rigorous tests demonstrating that it is invulnerable to impact, flames, submersion and puncture.

In addition to the safety of the casks, spent nuclear fuel may be shipped only along specified highway routes. Shippers submit routes to the NRC for approval ahead of time. The NRC checks that a route conforms to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, requiring the most direct interstate route, and avoiding large cities when a bypass or beltway is available. NRC officials drive the route ahead of time if it has not been previously approved before or used within the past few years. They will check for law enforcement and emergency response capability as well as secure facilities for emergency stops. Regulations also require that the shipper notify the governor of each State on the route seven days before the trip.

Specialized trucking companies handle spent nuclear fuel shipments in the United States. These experienced, specially licensed companies haul all kinds of hazardous materials more than 50 million miles annually. Vehicles are state of the art, equipped with computers that provide an instantaneous update on the truck's location and convey messages between driver and dispatcher through a satellite communications network. Drivers receive extensive training and must be certified.

The DOT and NRC establish emergency preparedness requirements for radioactive materials. The Federal Emergency Management Agency and the DOE provide emergency response training for state and local law enforcement, fire departments, rescue squads, covering preparedness planning and accident handling. In addition, DOE radiological assistance teams provide expertise and equipment, including mobile laboratories, to every region of the country. Also, according to a voluntary mutual assistance agreement, utilities respond to incidents in their area until emergency personnel from the shipper and shipping utility arrive.

I have no objection to the overall purpose of the amendment however, in having a study done on infrastructure and training. My colleagues should be aware that we already do that continuously for nuclear fuel and high-level radioactive waste.

AMENDMENT NO. 1077

MICHIGAN CORRIDOR PROJECTS

Ms. STABENOW. Madam President, I rise to engage in a colloquy with the distinguished senior Senator from Michigan and the distinguished chairman of the Transportation Appropriations Subcommittee. As the chairwoman knows, over the past few years, the State of Michigan has competed for funds under the Coordinated Border and Crossborder Infrastructure Enterprise Account (TBA 21). However, because of increased earmarking, discretionary funds have been greatly diminished. This year, both House and Senate did not contain any discretionary funds, eliminating an important discretionary funding source for the State of Michigan.

I would ask the distinguished chairwoman to give consideration to a particularly important project on our U.S.-Canadian border in Michigan. The Ambassador Bridge Gateway Project which will provide direct interstate access to the Ambassador Bridge and improve overall traffic flow to and from our U.S.-Canadian border, needs $10 million for this project on schedule. To date, there has been a total of $30.2 million in federal funds either spent or committed with a state match of $7 million. Any consideration that the distinguished chairwoman can provide is much appreciated.

Mr. LEVIN. I join the distinguished Senator from Michigan in asking the distinguished chairwoman to give this important project consideration in conference. The Ambassador Bridge in Detroit, MI is a critical project for the State's trade infrastructure. It is one of the three busiest border crossings in North America, and more trade moves over this bridge than the country exports to Japan. It is crucial that we keep traffic moving safely and efficiently at this crossing. The Ambassador Bridge Gateway project will provide direct interstate access to the bridge, and improve overall traffic flow to and from the ambassador Bridge. This project also has a wide range of support from the state, local government, metropolitan planning and the business community.

Ms. MURRAY. I thank the distinguished Senators from Michigan, and I will be happy to work with them in conference on this important corridor project.

SAFER TRUCKS ON AMERICAN HIGHWAYS

Mrs. HUTCHISON. Madam President, I commend Senator Murray and Senator Shelby for drafting an amendment that is attempting to address the issue of safe trucks on American highways. This is an issue that has caused a lot of disagreement. I know it is a very controversial issue. I want to speak about it because my State is most certainly affected. But I think every State is affected by whether we have safe trucks on our highways.

We do not yet have an agreement on this issue that everyone can live with. But I think we are a lot closer than anyone thinks. I ask Senators Murray, Shelby, McCain, Gramm, and the administration to work together to try to make sure we come out with regulations that will assure that we have the facilities and manpower to inspect every truck coming into our country, whatever it is from Mexico or from Canada.

Second, we must make sure we have foreign-owned trucks and drivers meet U.S. safety standards, while ensuring fair treatment for our trading partners. That is our responsibility and our commitment under NAFTA.

Third, I think it is very important that we commit to providing the financial resources for the inspection stations and other border infrastructure.

The administration asked for about $88 million for this in the Shelby committee report that is on the floor has more than $100 million to make sure we have the border inspection stations, without which we couldn't possibly comply with NAFTA.

If we have good regulations and the money to conduct the inspections, I think we can come up with language that will be acceptable to everyone and keep our commitment under NAFTA.