

WDET News

WSU Prof: DRIC Bridge is Unconstitutional

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Metro Desk

A Wayne State University law expert says the plan to build a new bridge south of the Ambassador Bridge is unconstitutional.

Professor Robert Sedler says his opinion is based on several laws related to ownership and rights of the Ambassador Bridge. He says a 1921 Congressional act spelling out the building of the bridge also gave the owners an exclusive right to such a crossing over the Detroit River.

"It's exclusive because under the law there's only one company that's authorized to do that and now that's the Detroit International Bridge Company. It is perpetual simply because Congress did not provide that it would expire after a period of time."

He also says the State of Michigan cannot enter into negotiations to build a new bridge with Canada... only the Federal government can do so under U.S. law. Sedler recently gave his opinion before the State Senate which is weighing the bridge issue. Sedler says he was hired by the Detroit International Bridge Company's attorneys to give his professional opinion on the matter.

Sedler appeared on WDET's "The Craig Fahle Show".