

June 25, 2019

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

The Honorable Philip D. Murphy
Governor of the State of New Jersey
125 West State Street
Trenton, NJ 08608

Re: Port Authority of New York and New Jersey Toll Increase

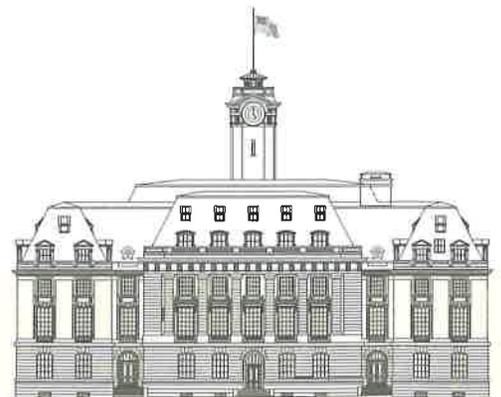
Dear Governors Cuomo and Murphy:

We hope this letter finds you well.

We, elected officials representing the people of Staten Island, are writing to strongly object to the recently announced Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) toll increases, and the decimation of discounts that are available to our constituents specifically because we cannot travel off the island without paying an egregious bridge toll.

As we are sure you know, due to a comparative paucity in public transportation Staten Islanders are, by necessity, more automobile-dependent than the residents of every other borough in the city of New York. For that reason they will shoulder a disproportionate burden if and when these new rules are enacted. It is not as if Staten Islanders can choose a cheaper option or use mass transit – they simply do not have those choices. They will be forced to pay for any and all increases – a de-facto tax – that are forced upon them by an agency they cannot hold accountable.

Simply put, as Staten Islanders we once again feel that we are being singled out for punishment and made to pay for the excesses of the PANYNJ.



By increasing the number of trips that trigger the Staten Island discount from three to ten, the PANYNJ is punishing not only some who use the crossings to commute to work, but also the drivers who use those crossings only on weekends, who are trying to visit their ailing parents, or who might want to spend an occasional evening "in the city" by avoiding the Verrazano Bridge, the BQE and the East River crossings and utilizing the New Jersey route.

In essence, the PANYNJ is taxing Staten Islanders at a much higher rate, full price, until they hit the ten-trip threshold.

While we recognize that the case for an increase in revenue has been presented and accepted, we urge you to employ the sense of fairness for which you are both noted. Because of a lack of options, there is already a disproportionate financial burden on Staten Island motorists. Please do not let this be another one.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Sincerely,


James S. Oddo
President, Borough of Staten Island


Max Rose
U.S. Congress, 11th District New York


Andrew Lanza
NYS Senate, 24th District


Michael Cusick
NYS Assembly, 63rd District