



STATE OF NEW JERSEY

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March 31, 2020

Honorable Dianne Gutierrez-Scaccetti,
Commissioner
NJ Dept. of Transportation
PO Box 351
Trenton, NJ 08625

Stephen Dougherty,
Executive Director
South Jersey Transportation Authority
PO Box 60
Hammonton, NJ 08037

RE: Opposition to Proposed SJTA Toll Hikes, Atlantic City Expressway

***Transmitted via e-mail

Dear Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti & Executive Director Dougherty:

This is to convey our Delegation's vehement and unalterable opposition to the proposed toll hikes being considered by the South Jersey Transportation Authority for the Atlantic City Expressway. Respectfully, we request this correspondence be entered into the official record of public testimony.

Simply stated, the proposed toll increases hold the potential of creating severe economic hardships for its residents and businesses due to the COVID-19 outbreak. This includes negatively impacting those residents who are already unemployed or stand to be unemployed in the near future due to the nation's precarious economic situation. The increased cost expenditures will mean businesses will have less financial resources needed to stabilize their operations or recover.

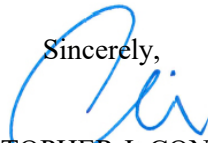
Irrespective of any justification offered for requesting additional toll revenue, the standing reality is that too many commuters and taxpayers simply cannot afford to pay increased tolls. Too much is at stake to impose yet another increase in the cost of living and doing business in New Jersey when, conversely, the state should be sharply focused on alleviating financial hardships.

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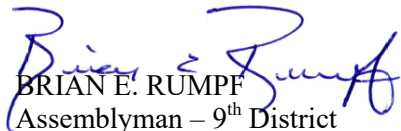
In view of the substantial economic challenges our state and nation face, quite possibly for a considerable period of time, any proposal to increase tolls on the Atlantic City Expressway should be immediately dismissed.

Thank you, in advance, for your attention to this urgent and important communication.

Sincerely,



CHRISTOPHER J. CONNORS
Senator – 9th District



BRIAN E. RUMPF
Assemblyman – 9th District



DI ANNE C. GOVE
Assemblywoman – 9th District

CJC/BER/DCG: js