



Michael J. Cusick
Assemblymember
63rd District
Richmond County

New York State Assembly

Chairman
Committee on Energy

Committee Member
Governmental Employees
Higher Education
Veterans' Affairs
Ways and Means

September 6, 2019

Rick Cotton
Executive Director
The Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York NY 10007

To Mr. Cotton,

Thank you for conducting an additional public hearing on the toll hike plan to allow Staten Islanders to be heard. After last night's hearing, it has been made clear that any increase will be a hardship to Staten Islanders. We write to encourage the Bridge and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey to reject the proposed toll increases for bridges leading to and from Staten Island. Further, it is imperative to hold the current Staten Island Bridges Plan at the same rate for drivers who make at least three Island-bound trips each month as the proposal to increase the per-month-trip requirement to 10 would have a significant negative impact on residents who must commute for work or familial obligations.

Our constituents are rightly concerned about the proposal and we have heard from hundreds of hard working folks who have come to rely upon to Bridges Plan first established by Governor Andrew Cuomo in 2012 with the support of representatives from Staten Island.

As Island residents, our constituents are squeezed between tolls over the Narrows and over the Arthur Kill when they wish to leave for work, family, or entertainment. Since 2012, we've seen four toll increases which have made life more expensive for Staten Islanders who are funding billions in Port Authority projects. Under the proposed regimen, Islanders who cross nine times would see an astonishing 120 percent toll increase over what they pay today.

We believe it is common sense to preserve the Bridges Plan as is, recognizing, as did Governor Cuomo, former New Jersey Governor Christie, and the Port Authority, the financial hardship for Staten Island residents.

We look forward to continuing this discussion,

Sincerely,



Michael J. Cusick
Member of Assembly



Max Rose
U.S. Congressman, NY-11



Diane Savino
New York State Senator



Andrew Lanza
New York State Senator



James Oddo
Borough President
Staten Island