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May 8, 2013

Satish K. Tripathi
Co-Chair, WNY Regional Economic Development Council

Howard A. Zemsky
Co-Chair, WNY Regional Economic Development Council
95 Perry Street, Suite 500
Buffalo, NY 14203-3030

Dear Council Co-Chairs Tripathi and Zemsky:

I write today to encourage you to make the removal of the Buffalo Skyway a top priority project for our regional economy. I believe that taking down the Skyway will spur further economic progress and job growth along Buffalo's waterfront by opening up new opportunities for development and private-sector investment.

The removal of the Skyway will prove to be a transformative project that will advance the ongoing efforts to make Buffalo a world-class waterfront city. Razing this "structurally deficient" and "functionally obsolete" structure will remove a physical barrier that is impeding further development and blocking the path toward Buffalo's stronger economic future.

This week, Empire State Development President & CEO Ken Adams appeared before the Senate Economic Development Committee to discuss statewide job creation initiatives. Mr. Adams and I briefly discussed Skyway removal and its potential impact on local economic development. He indicated that ESD would likely follow the guidance of the WNY Regional Economic Development Council on the removal of the Skyway. Essentially, the regional council's opinion on this matter would help steer state actions.

I urge you to consider making Skyway removal a top priority for our regional council.

The state DOT currently gives the Skyway a rating of 4.85 – which means it is "structurally deficient" – and a 2012 DOT report on state bridge conditions notes that the Federal Highway Administration rates the bridge "functionally obsolete."

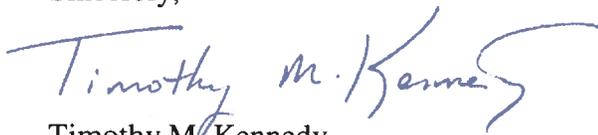


In addition to opening up new waterfront lands for private development, tearing down the Skyway will save taxpayer money. A 2008 DOT report shows that current maintenance of the structure will cost the state approximately \$117 million over the next 20 years, while removal costs have been estimated at \$20 to \$25 million.

The DOT needs to finally make this long-awaited investment in Buffalo's waterfront, and the endorsement of the WNY REDC will help move the state closer to action on Skyway removal.

Again, the public support of the regional council could lead to further progress at the water's edge. Thank you for your time and consideration of this matter. Please do not hesitate to contact me at any time to discuss this further.

Sincerely,



Timothy M. Kennedy
New York State Senate, 63rd District

CC: Crystal Abers, Cattaraugus Director of Economic Development, Planning & Tourism
Aaron Bartley, Executive Director, PUSH Buffalo
Jeff Belt, CEO, SolEpoxy
Robert T. Brady, Chairman & CEO, Moog
Deanna Alterio Brennen, President & CEO, Niagara USA Chamber
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Paul Brown, President, Buffalo Building & Construction Trades
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Thomas A. Kucharski, President & CEO, Buffalo Niagara Enterprise
Brenda W. McDuffie, President & CEO, Buffalo Urban League, Inc.
Jennifer J. Parker, President, Jackson Parker Communications & Founder of the Black Capital
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Mark Poloncarz, Erie County Executive
Michael H. Ranzenhofer, State Senate, 61st District
Duncan Ross, President, Arrowhead Spring Vineyards
William Ross, Chair of Niagara County Legislature
Andrew J. Rudnick, President & CEO, Buffalo Niagara Partnership
Robin Schimming, State Assembly, 140th District
Samuel Teresi, Mayor of Jamestown
Connie Vari
Dr. Raul Vazquez, Founder & CEO, Urban Family Practice, P.C.