

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY 12247



PATRICK M. GALLIVAN

July 26, 2012

Howard P. Milstein
Chairman - New York State Thruway Authority
200 Southern Blvd.
P.O. Box 189
Albany, NY 12201-0189

Dear Chairman Milstein,

I am writing in opposition to the planned forty-five percent Thruway toll increase on any vehicle with three or more axles. In the short time since I was named the chair of the Commerce, Economic Development and Small Business Committee, I have heard time and again about the high cost of doing business in New York. The planned toll increases are another additional cost that will only make it more difficult to do business in this state.

These toll increases will be detrimental to our still recovering state economy. While the toll increases will only raise the cost of a trip from Buffalo to New York City about \$40, when this cost is aggregated over a large number of trips and combined with the state's ton mileage tax and high gas tax, I am afraid that businesses operating on tight margins will not be able to absorb these costs. Additionally, it is likely that much of this rate increase will be passed along to consumers in the form of higher prices on the many goods that are transported by truck across the state. During a time when many business are having difficulties remaining profitable and many families are struggling to make ends meet, a toll increase may be the proverbial straw that breaks the camel's back.

I am cognizant of the Thruway Authority's obligation to pay for debt it has acquired, but, instead of raising tolls, I urge you to look at ways to cut the cost of the Thruway authority. Since 2005 traffic has decreased by ten percent, while costs have increased twenty percent. I find it unlikely that there are no efficiency or downsizing options which will allow the Thruway to operate and meet its debt obligations without raising tolls.

Again, I would like to reiterate my opposition to the planned forty-five percent Thruway toll increase. Neither businesses nor consumers in New York can afford to face higher prices. I believe that the Thruway Authority should first look to cut costs to pay for its operation and debt obligations.

If you have an questions on this or any other issue, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Patrick M. Gallivan", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Patrick M. Gallivan
Senator
59th District

Cc: Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Hon. Dean Skelos

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