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ROB ROLISON
39th District

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July 29, 2026

Regional Director Linda Cooper
New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation
625 Broadway, Albany, NY 12207

Dear Regional Director Cooper,

I am writing regarding the emergency call boxes located on the Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park. My office was recently made aware that these emergency phones are currently not functioning and, according to those familiar with the situation, may have been out of service for several months, if not longer.

During a recent visit to the Walkway, we observed only a single emergency call box on the Dutchess County side and were unable to locate one on the Ulster County side. Given the length of the bridge and the volume of visitors it receives each day, I am concerned about whether the current emergency communications infrastructure provides adequate coverage for those who may need immediate assistance.

The Walkway Over the Hudson is one of the Hudson Valley's and New York State's most visited attractions, welcoming hundreds of thousands of residents and visitors each year. These emergency phones are a critical public safety resource that individuals should be able to rely on in the event of a medical emergency, public safety incident, mental health crisis, or any other situation requiring immediate assistance.

Unfortunately, the need for these resources is not theoretical. The City of Poughkeepsie Police Department has responded to numerous incidents on the Walkway in the past year where immediate intervention helped save lives. In situations like these, every second matters. Having accessible, functioning emergency call boxes could make the difference between life and death.

I respectfully request an update on the status of these emergency phones, including why they are currently out of service, how long they have been inoperable, and what steps are being taken to restore them. Additionally, I would appreciate learning what plans the Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation has moving forward to ensure the Walkway is adequately equipped with emergency communications infrastructure so that individuals in distress—or those needing to summon medical, law enforcement, or other emergency assistance—can do so quickly, regardless of where they are on the bridge.

If there are funding, infrastructure, or other obstacles delaying these repairs or future improvements, I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how my office may be able to assist in moving this issue forward.

Ensuring that visitors and staff have access to dependable emergency communications should be a shared priority. I appreciate your attention to this matter and look forward to working together to ensure the Walkway remains a safe destination for everyone. I stand ready to assist in any way I can, as the safety of all who visit and work at the Walkway is paramount.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "R.G. Rolison". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R" and a distinct "G" before the last name.

Robert G. Rolison
New York State Senate
39th District