



The Legislature
State of New York

September 29, 2022

Senator Timothy M. Kennedy
Chairman
NYS Senate Transportation Committee
Room 708 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblyman William B. Magnarelli
Chairman
NYS Assembly Transportation Committee
Room 830 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Senator James Skoufis
Chairman
NYS Senate Investigations &
Government Operations Committee
Room 815 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Assemblyman John T. McDonald III
Chairman
NYS Assembly Committee on Oversight,
Analysis and Investigation
Room 417 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Colleagues:

The horrific limo crash in 2018 in Schoharie that took the lives of 20 people, including several of our constituents, has shown the need for stronger oversight of the for-hire limousine industry and the legislature has taken steps to pass legislation to begin to address that.

Among legislation we passed was the creation of the New York State Stretch Limousine Passenger Safety Task Force to examine the circumstances surrounding the Schoharie crash and similar incidents related to stretch limos. The Task Force, which by law will remain in effect until May 31, 2023, is required to submit its final report and recommendations to the governor and legislature for review by October 1, 2022.

In 2021, the National Transportation Safety Board said the NYS DOT and DMV share the blame in the Schoharie crash with Prestige limousine operators as they had multiple opportunities to permanently remove the vehicle from operation but failed.

Unfortunately, the Task Force is still missing essential safety information to complete a holistic and thorough report about what happened and what went wrong to provide us with sound policy recommendations to prevent a tragedy like this from happening again: the results of the New York State Inspector General's ongoing investigation of the role of the DOT and DMV played prior to and in the aftermath of the Schoharie limo crash.

Several members of the Task Force, including parents of limo crash victims, have urged a delay in the release of the report so they can thoroughly review the findings of the IG's investigation of the horrific Schoharie Limo crash.

The Task Force is co-chaired by the Governor's appointees Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) Commissioner Mark Schroeder and Department of Transportation (DOT) Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez. IG Lucy Lang also is appointed by the Governor and reports directly to her office.

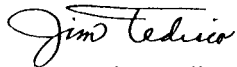
We, and members of the Task Force, have repeatedly called for the IG to announce the findings of her year-and-a-half-long investigation. However, she has refused any transparency or provided any daylight on the matter.

There is now an appearance of collusion among the DOT and DMV Commissioners who co-chair the Task Force, the IG and the Hochul Administration to withhold critical information on this investigation. Without this information, any so-called final report by the Task Force will be meaningless.

We respectfully ask that you convene a joint legislative public hearing as soon as possible on potential collusion in the investigation of the Schoharie limo crash and use your subpoena power to get real answers and justice for the families, and ultimately, help craft policy recommendations to prevent something like this from happening again.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Senator Jim Tedisco



Assemblyman Chris Tague