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September 28, 2017

Eric Schneiderman
Attorney General
The Capitol
Albany, NY 12224

Dear AG Schneiderman,

We are writing to you today in the hope that your office can intervene and provide legal assistance to the hundreds of thousands of New York state residents who traverse the Outerbridge Crossing each week.

As you know, the Outerbridge Crossing is the southernmost entry point and bridge in the state, and it connects Staten Island to the city of Perth Amboy, NJ. Each year, countless New Yorkers, many of them our constituents, cross this bridge to access New Jersey's beaches, apple orchards and pumpkin patches. This time of year is especially crowded, and weekend traffic returning to the borough is a regular occurrence.

Unfortunately, this year has proven even worse. In an attempt to prevent motorists from utilizing local roads to access the bridge, the city of Perth Amboy has closed exits and access roads to traffic they determine to be non-local. To do so, Perth Amboy police officers are stationed at choke points and flagging eastbound cars that have New York license plates back onto the highway, or barring them from exiting. This has resulted in traffic jams beyond normal autumn traffic. We have received numerous reports of this occurring, and some of us have even experienced it firsthand.

We are writing to you today as the chief legal officer of our state to ask you to determine the rights of New York state residents with respect to operating private vehicles on the city of Perth Amboy's public roads, and, if necessary, taking any and all steps necessary to preserve the right of New Yorkers to travel on public roadways without interference or discrimination. Overall, we are disappointed in the actions taken by our New Jersey counterparts, with whom we have previously worked in a productive manner, and we believe that our constituents deserve better treatment.

Additionally, we are also formally requesting your advisory opinion on what, if anything, the City of New York may reasonably do to prevent New Jersey drivers from adding to our local traffic. We have all seen New Jersey drivers on local streets when the West Shore and Staten Island Expressways have become congested; further, we have seen a large increase in the number of New Jersey registered vehicles at our park and rides, which takes away much-needed parking spots and bus seats from Island commuters. If New Jersey has the right to reduce local traffic, perhaps Staten Islanders may appreciate the reciprocity.

We thank you for your attention to this matter,

Respectfully Yours,



Joseph C. Borelli
Minority Whip
City Council, NYC
51st District



Daniel M. Donovan, Jr.
U.S. Representative
NY District 11



Jim Oddo
Borough President
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Steven Matteo
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