



June 21, 2021

Senator Joseph Lagana
205 Robin Rd.
Suite 122
Paramus, NJ 07652

Congressman Josh Gottheimer
203 Cannon HOB
Washington, DC 20515

Re: Congestion Toll for NJ from NY

Dear Senator Lagana & Congressman Gottheimer:

I am the Executive Director of the Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association. Our association works in cooperation with national and other state industry associations, local, state, and federal agencies, legislators, suppliers of products and services to the operators, attractions, destinations, and other entities to promote the betterment and welfare of our industry, members, and association objectives. We are governed by a Board of Directors, who are primarily owners of motorcoach companies, and a few non-voting directors from our supplier and destination members. We are proudly celebrating our 40th anniversary this year.

We have information regarding the proposed congestion toll and saw in the news about your opposition to NJ paying for it. We have been following congestion pricing for years, and I am writing to you today to share information with you. First and foremost, we are in support of your efforts to combat the congestion tolling for NJ and offer you, and your staff, our expertise and assistance. Our members provide valuable service to consumers and are an integral part of achieving the goal of reducing congestion. We move people in and out of NYC with efficiency as a provider of “mass transit”.

We have recently had to absorb a recent toll hike, as well as the significant decrease in ridership due to the devastating impact of the pandemic. In general, our private bus operators, many of which who provide public transportation, already bear the brunt of these increases in cost, along with NJ residents and taxpayers. Ever-increasing costs result in higher fares, and in some cases potentially a loss of service if a route becomes uneconomical to operate. Some of our members have already suspended operations due to the pandemic effects.

As one example, the toll for buses was almost half of that for a car from 2001 to 2007. With the increase in 2011, it went up to almost 100%, which is roughly equal to cars. Based on peak hours, based on a 2.5% inflation rate, by 2026, the toll for a bus is estimated to be at 135% of that for a passenger car. This type of increase is counterproductive and penalizes the use of mass transit, where use of it should be rewarded.

Regarding congestion in NYC, and in general, we are not part of the problem, we are the solution. To that point, I have enclosed a copy of a photo since a picture is worth a thousand words. We respectfully request that

we be excluded from congestion pricing when it goes through. Is this something you can help us with? If not, please let us know who we should direct our request to.



If you have questions or want to learn more about our industry's concerns, we respectfully request a discussion.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia A. Cowley, Executive Director
Greater New Jersey Motorcoach Association
PO Box 186
Washington, NJ 07882
908-750-4538
www.gnjma.com