



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

November 20, 2019

Governor Ned Lamont
Office of Governor Ned Lamont
State Capitol
210 Capitol Avenue
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Lamont:

As the NYS legislators representing the communities surrounding the 1.4 miles of Interstate 684 (I-684) running through Connecticut, we are deeply concerned about and opposed to any proposal to introduce a toll on the small section of I-684 roadway running through Connecticut. In effect, it would create a “New York” tax on our constituents who must transverse this small section of Connecticut in their drive within New York State.

We share your commitment to improving road and rail infrastructure, including the section of I-684 running through Connecticut. However, this plan clearly targets New York drivers and taxpayers and will increase traffic on New York and Connecticut’s secondary roads. Imposing a toll on a small section of roadway running through Connecticut within a one-mile section between two New York roadway sections creates a regressive tax on New York drivers, particularly burdensome for low-income commuters who have little choice in their daily travels. In addition, this proposed toll encourages drivers to avoid the toll by taking detours off of I-684 onto secondary roads through Connecticut and New York, resulting in increased local maintenance and road repair costs.

I-684 is almost 29 miles of roadway, and much of it runs directly through our districts. New York State provides maintenance for the entirety of Interstate 684, and we have fought tirelessly and will continue to fight to ensure it receives funding for needed repairs. Over the past seven years alone, New York State Department of Transportation spent \$144.6 million on I-684. Most recently, we secured up to \$13 million from general operating revenue to rebuild two miles of roadway in Bedford, benefiting not only New York drivers but many Connecticut drivers from Greenwich and New Canaan.

We remain committed to working with our colleagues and neighboring states, including Connecticut, to improve our shared infrastructure, but we cannot do so in a manner that explicitly targets and has a disproportionate impact on our neighboring residents, particularly low- and moderate- income residents. We are committed to working with you collaboratively and in a manner of mutual respect, and we expect the same from you.

Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to hearing your response.

Sincerely,



Shelley B. Mayer
Senator, 37th District



Peter B. Harckham
Senator, 40th District



David Buchwald
Assemblyman, 93rd District



Kevin Byrne
Assemblyman, 94th District

cc: Lt. Governor Susan Bysiewicz
Senate President Pro Tempore Martin Looney
Senate Majority Leader Bob Duff
Speaker of the House Joe Aresimowicz
Senate Republican Leader Len Fasano
Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore Kevin Witkos
House Republican Leader Themis Klarides