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ANGELO SANTABARBARA
Assemblyman 111th District

December 5th, 2022

Thomas DiNapoli
New York State Comptroller
110 State Street
Albany, NY 12236

Dear Comptroller DiNapoli,

I write to express concerns about the finances of the New York State Thruway Authority and request that your office complete a thorough audit of the Authority's revenue, spending and financial practices.

While all levels of government are working to help residents save money, a rate hike proposal was recently approved by the New York State Thruway Board of Directors to increase tolls by 10% over the next 5 years. At the same time, the Thruway Authority's conversion to cashless tolling eliminated more than 1,100 toll worker positions with the expectation that the new system would serve as a long-term cost-saving measure that would be passed down to the residents of our state.

This proposal comes at a time when families are being hit hard by inflation and rising costs for goods and services across the board. During this time, significant pay raises were also reported on SeeThroughNY.net for top employees of the Authority. One example: the outgoing Executive Director received a 16% percent pay increase from 2018 to 2021. Similar increases can be seen throughout the Authority's publicly listed payroll.

With the current rate hike proposal now subject to public hearings, an updated audit will provide the needed oversight to ensure the Authority is collecting and spending toll dollars in a responsible manner. Past audits from your office have found consistent issues with the Thruway Authority's spending practices, lack of long-term financial planning, inability to reduce costs and finding ways to generate revenue through alternative methods other than raising tolls.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Angelo Santabarbara

Member of the New York State Assembly

111th District | Representing areas of Albany, Montgomery & Schenectady Counties

SCHENECTADY OFFICE: 433 State Street, Center City, Schenectady, New York 12305 • 518-382-2941 FAX: 518-382-5731
AMSTERDAM OFFICE: 2550 Riverfront Center, Amsterdam, New York 12010 • 518-843-0227, FAX: 518-843-0049
ALBANY OFFICE: Room 654, Legislative Office Building, Albany, New York 12248 • 518-455-5197, FAX: 518-455-5435
EMAIL: santabarbara@nyassembly.gov