

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

Member of the  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Capital Review Board

VICE CHAIRMAN  
Minority Task Force on  
Sex Offender Watch

Minority Task Force on  
Small Business in New York State



RANKING MINORITY MEMBER  
Health Committee

COMMITTEES  
Ways and Means  
Codes  
Transportation  
Corporations, Authorities and  
Commissions

August 19, 2011

**LOUIS R. TOBACCO**  
Assemblyman 62<sup>nd</sup> District

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo  
Governor of New York State  
NYS State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo,

Assemblywoman Malliotakis, Senator Lanza and I wanted to take this opportunity to reach out to you regarding your joint decision with Governor Christie to scale back the proposed toll hikes on Port Authority crossings from a \$4.00 increase to \$1.50. We both agree that this is a first step in helping commuters but believe that more needs to be done for Staten Island residents and commuters.

This new plan is still a toll hike on commuters who pay some of the highest rates in the nation. Instead of cutting back on toll increases, we should be looking at ways to reduce transportation costs for all Staten Islanders.

It is critical that the Port Authority find ways to streamline its operations rather than continually coming to the residents of Staten Island with its hand out asking for more. This leads us to our suggestion that both you and Governor Christie, with the help of both states' legislatures, should implement an immediate forensic audit of the Port Authority. Staten Islanders can no longer afford to subsidize the travel of other tri-state commuters.

Assemblywoman Malliotakis, Senator Lanza and I believe that a dedicated toll-discount program for Staten Islanders would be a step in the right direction toward our goal of reducing transportation costs during the current tough economic times.

We hope that this letter finds you well and that you consider our suggestions to ultimately help Staten Islanders find relief.

Sincerely,

Louis R. Tobacco  
Member of the Assembly  
62<sup>nd</sup> District

Nicole Malliotakis  
Member of the Assembly  
60<sup>th</sup> District

Andrew J. Lanza  
Member of the Senate  
24<sup>th</sup> District