

NEW YORK STATE

DIANE J. SAVINO
Senator, 23rd District



NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS
Assemblywoman, 64th District

LEGISLATURE

June 19, 2013

Thomas F. Prendergast
Interim Executive Director
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue
New York, NY 10017-3739

Dear Mr. Prendergast:

Thank you for your swift, though certainly indirect and rather brief response to our letter dated June 17, 2013 in which we strongly requested that you reconsider the decision to use Chinese steel manufacturers in the rebuilding of the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge and use American made steel by an American company. However, your response, transmitted by Mr. Adam Lisberg on your behalf to Ms. Celeste Katz, has left us with more questions still.

Firstly, we are asking that the MTA make available publicly their “due diligence” that was conducted in choosing a firm that would provide the steel used in the deck reconstruction and their attempts and ultimately disappointing inability to find an American firm that had the “capability, experience and desire to fabricate the steel bridge deck”. We are curious which American firms applied for this contract, and which of these three attributes they were lacking.

Secondly, we are curious why holding up the Verrazano Rebuilding project to find a different firm, a firm which could possibly provide better quality steel, would cost the MTA \$100 million dollars. This is not an insignificant sum of money, and we are interested in a detailed explanation fiscally of why a delay would cost this exact sum of money. Our concern over this alleged dollar amount is compounded by the reported \$251 million profit earned by the MTA on the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge in 2011. We struggle to accept why the project to improve this bridge, carrying the highest one-way toll in the nation, is a target for cost-cutting while the rest of the system has benefited disproportionately from capital spending in recent years.

Thank you for your time and swift attention to this matter. It remains of the utmost importance to our constituents and ourselves that the best possible product and workers be used in a project to rebuild an American landmark which also happens to be a crucial piece of infrastructure that connects Brooklynites and Staten Islanders to other destinations.

Very truly yours,


Diane J. Savino
Senator


Nicole Malliotakis
Member of Assembly