

THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY



DAVID G. McDONOUGH
Assemblyman 14th District

March 10, 2021

Eric J. Soskin
Inspector General
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave SE, 7th Floor
Washington, DC 20590

Dear Inspector General Soskin:

We write to bring to your attention a [recent investigative report](#) published on March 7 in the *Albany Times Union*, which details an alarming potential coverup of major structural problems on the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge.

Given the serious concerns raised by the article, members of the New York State Assembly Minority Conference request that your office launch an immediate investigation into the structural integrity of the bridge, and whether any attempts were made by state officials to prioritize a rushed completion of the project at the expense of safety concerns.

In 2017, the New York State Attorney General launched an investigation into concerns raised with the structural integrity of bolts used in the construction process of the bridge, and whether Tappan Zee Constructors (TZC), a private corporation, falsely certified the bridge's safety. This investigation resulted in a \$2 million settlement with the state, with relevant records sealed from the public.

Based on conversations with individuals involved in both the bridge's construction and Attorney General's investigation, the *Times Union* report raises serious and numerous concerns over the bridge's safety and whether political intervention influenced the investigation. The slow movement of the inquiry, the unusually-low financial settlement reached with TZC, the political considerations at play in finishing the project as quickly as possible, and the failure to publicly release the conclusions of the state's findings all raise serious concerns about the integrity of the investigation.

Every day, more than 400,000 vehicles traverse the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge's three-mile span. The catastrophic risk that exists if this structure was to fail or become compromised is immeasurable. Given the legitimate questions now surrounding the state's own investigation, the significant federal support granted for the construction of the bridge, and the

success of your office in investigating potential criminal conduct with other projects, we believe New Yorkers would be best served by an independent federal investigation.

Action by your office would provide much-needed reassurance to commuters from several states that one of the region's most critical roadways is structurally sound. In addition, your role as Inspector General would be instrumental to ensure any official who put New Yorkers in danger be held accountable. Given the seriousness of the charges detailed in the *Times Union* report, we hope your office moves with all deliberate speed in consideration of our request.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,



David McDonough
Minority Ranking Member
Assembly Committee on Transportation



Edward P. Ra
Minority Ranking Member
Assembly Committee on Ways & Means



Will Barclay
Assembly Minority Leader



Joseph Angelino
122nd Assembly District



Jacob Ashby
107th Assembly District



Kenneth D. Blankenbush
117th Assembly District



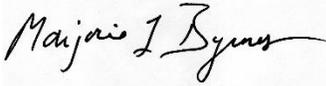
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94th Assembly District



Marjorie L. Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



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3rd Assembly District



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147th Assembly District



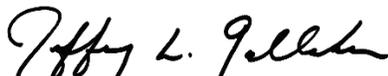
Michael Durso
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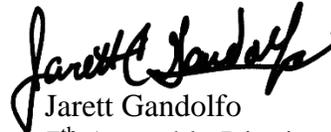
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District



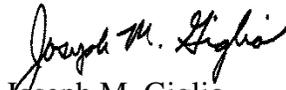
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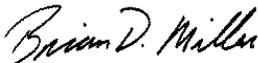
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Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District



Michael A. Montesano
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Angelo J. Morinello
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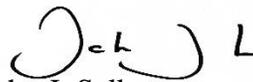
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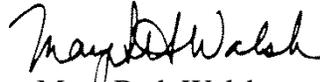
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