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Honorable Phil Murphy, Governor State of New Jersey Office of the Governor PO Box 001 Trenton, NJ 08625 Transmitted via e-mail

RE: Veto Toll Increase That Residents & Businesses Cannot Afford

Dear Governor Murphy:

In representing the interests of our constituents, we are in the strongest terms calling on your Administration to veto the New Jersey Turnpike Authority minutes that would allow for yet another toll increase to be imposed on commuters traveling in the state.

As you will recall, our Delegation contacted you on this same issue in February with the same concerns – the financial burden placed on our constituents, many of whom are seniors living on fixed incomes. With costs rising across the board from groceries to insurance coverage, too many residents simply cannot afford to pay more in tolls and make ends meet, which includes paying property taxes. Undoubtedly, consumers are likely to see increases in the costs of goods passed on by businesses which will also be hit hard financially by a toll increase. As always, our Legislative District stands to be disproportionately impacted by a toll increase due to the reliance by local residents on the Garden State Parkway and the appalling lack of NJ Transit services in the area.

Residents who are struggling financially are right to question how the state cannot somehow find the means to pay for road maintenance out of the \$50 Billion State budget but must, instead, impose another toll increase for a fourth straight year. Permitting the toll increase to go into effect would only validate the view many residents hold that Trenton is only worsening New Jersey's affordability crisis at a time when elected officials should be doing the exact opposite - reducing the state's crushing tax burden.

To reiterate, we are in the strongest terms calling on your Administration to veto the New Jersey Turnpike Authority minutes that would authorize a toll increase that our constituents cannot afford.

Sincerely.

CARMEN F. AMATO, J

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Assemblyman – 9th District

GREGORY E. MYHRE Assemblyman – 9th Distric