

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 of 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.

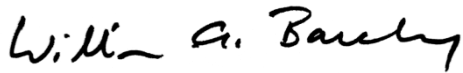
Sincerely,



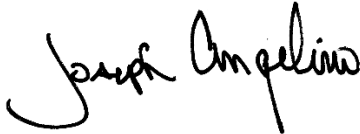
David McDonough
Minority Ranking Member
Assembly Committee on Transportation



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



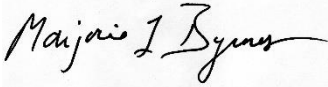
Karl Brabenec
98th Assembly District



Keith P. Brown
12th Assembly District



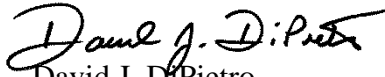
Kevin M. Byrne
94th Assembly District



Marjorie L. Byrnes
133rd Assembly District



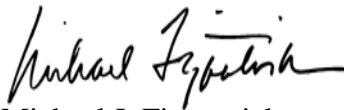
Joseph P. DeStefano
3rd Assembly District



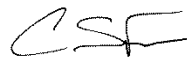
David J. DiPietro
147th Assembly District



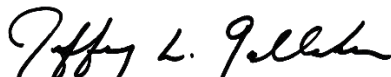
Michael Durso
9th Assembly District



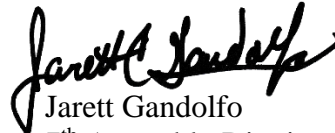
Michael J. Fitzpatrick
8th Assembly District



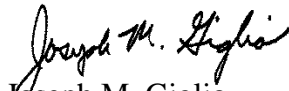
Christopher S. Friend
124th Assembly District



Jeffery L. Gallahan
131st Assembly District



Jarett Gandolfo
7th Assembly District



Joseph M. Giglio
148th Assembly District



Jodi Giglio
2nd Assembly District



Andrew Goodell
150th Assembly District



Stephen M. Hawley
139th Assembly District



Joshua T. Jensen
134th Assembly District



Kieran Michael Lalor
105th Assembly District



Michael Lawler
97th Assembly District



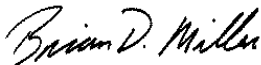
John Lemondes, Jr.
126th Assembly District



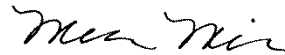
Brian D. Manktelow
130th Assembly District



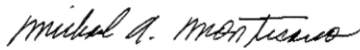
John Mikulin
17th Assembly District



Brian D. Miller
101st Assembly District



Melissa "Missy" Miller
20th Assembly District



Michael A. Montesano
15th Assembly District



Angelo J. Morinello
145th Assembly District



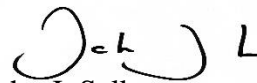
Michael J. Norris
144th Assembly District



Philip A. Palmesano
132nd Assembly District



Michael W. Reilly, Jr.
62nd Assembly District



John J. Salka
121st Assembly District



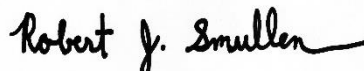
Colin J. Schmitt
99th Assembly District



Matthew Simpson
114th Assembly District



Douglas M. Smith
5th Assembly District



Robert J. Smullen
118th Assembly District



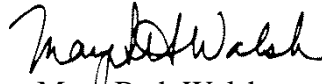
Christopher Tague
102nd Assembly District



Michael Tannousis
64th Assembly District



Mark C. Walczyk
116th Assembly District



Mary Beth Walsh
112th Assembly District