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April 25, 2013

The Honorable Denis Lebel
Minister of Transport, Infrastructure and Communities
Transport Canada
330 Sparks Street
Ottawa, ON K1A 0N5

RE: The Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA)

Dear Minister Lebel:

I am writing to express New York State's increasing concern over circumstances at the Buffalo and Fort Erie Public Bridge Authority (PBA).

Since taking office, New York has made the improvement of the U.S. Plaza of the Peace Bridge a priority. Among the actions taken by New York are:

- Negotiating an agreement with the City of Buffalo for two blocks of Busti Avenue – an action that had eluded the PBA for years;
- an unprecedented commitment by the State of \$15 million toward a project that should be funded in whole by the PBA;
- working with the U.S. Federal government to obtain an additional \$15.8 million Federal funding; and
- an agreement with the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development and the Episcopal Church to repurpose the Church property for Plaza improvements.

Finally, after years of foot-dragging, progress is occurring on the American side of the border.

Unfortunately, that progress is in jeopardy due to lack of cooperation from the Canadian members of the PBA Board.

This is stark contrast to New York's historic support for projects on the Canadian side. As you will recall, the Canadian plaza project was undertaken by the PBA and Transport Canada with the full support of the U.S. members of the PBA Board. As part of that project, the PBA's principal office was moved to Canada and a new, modern headquarters building constructed. New York support for the Canadian projects was in keeping with past practice, in which a

particular matter relating to only one side of the Bridge receives a degree of deference the members from that side. But with the U.S. Plaza improvement project, there has been a lack of collaboration from the Canadian members with the U.S. members. With Board membership split evenly between Canada and the U.S., disagreements result in deadlock. New York even suggested that the State was willing to assume full responsibility for turn-key delivery of the project, a concept that was openly rejected by the Canadian board members and the General Manager.

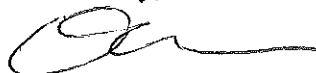
New York is determined to achieve improvements on the U.S. Plaza that will bring the same state-of-the-art modern facilities and infrastructure improvements that have already been realized, with full American cooperation, on the bridge's Canadian Plaza. The residents of Western New York and Buffalo, and the 14,000 daily users of the bridge, deserve no less. Moreover, the State appointees to the PBA support making the PBA a better community citizen in the U.S., including respect for local concerns as well as greater PBA transparency and accountability.

Western New Yorkers ask for nothing more than the same respect for their goals for the Peace Bridge as New Yorkers have given to Canadian concerns. Instead, an impasse exists between the Canadian and U.S. board members. The U.S. members have advised state officials that they have lost confidence in the General Manager and no longer believe that he can adequately and fairly represent their interests. With this matter unresolved, there is serious doubt about the ability of the Peace Bridge Authority to function.

We are eager to meet with you at your earliest convenience in order to discuss details of these issues and work toward resolving these matters and allow this much needed project to proceed, while creating a new environment of collaboration and transparency at the PBA.

The efficient transfer of goods between Canada and the U.S. is of critical importance to both our countries. Our economic growth depends on it, and the Peace Bridge, the third largest truck crossing by volume and the largest automobile crossing between our two nations, is a critical link that ensures the free flow of trade.

Sincerely,



Howard Glaser
Director of State Operations and
Senior Policy Advisor

Cc: His Excellency the Right Honorable David Lloyd Johnston, CC CMM COM CD FRSC
FRCPSC, Governor General
The Honorable Rob Nicholson, P.C., Q.C., M.P. for Niagara Falls, Minister of Justice
and Attorney General of Canada
The Honorable John Prato, Consul General
Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood