

December 9, 2008

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell
Governor
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Dear Governor Rendell:

Pennsylvania, like the nation as a whole, finds itself in the midst of one of the largest financial crises it has experienced in recent memory. At this time, it is imperative our state leaders not impose any new hardships on Pennsylvania businesses and working families who are struggling to make ends meet. Therefore, I am asking that you urge the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission (PTC) to not resubmit their application to toll Interstate 80 when the new Presidential Administration takes control in January.

We can all agree that Pennsylvania must find more funding to repair our currently decaying roads and bridges, as well as financing new infrastructure expansion projects which are desperately needed. However, asking those Pennsylvanians who live and work along the I-80 corridor to bear the entire burden of paying the cost of those projects is not the answer. President-elect Obama has indicated that he is interested in providing much needed infrastructure funding to states and we must work together with his administration to make sure that any new federal funding is directed towards those projects that are in the greatest need.

Meeting our transportation funding goals also requires us to look to new and innovative ideas on the state level to fund transportation projects such as Public Private Partnerships. The Senate overwhelmingly passed legislation authorizing such projects, only to have it die in the House at the end of last session. It is my hope that with your support the legislature can send similar legislation to you for your signature next year.

The Honorable Edward G. Rendell

December 9, 2008

Page 2

While transportation funding is urgently needed, it is important that you provide direction to the PTC, and let them know that now is not the time to attempt to rehash old, unsuccessful schemes such as the tolling of I-80. I look forward to working with you to find an equitable transportation funding solution in the near future.

Sincerely,

Joe Scarnati
State Senator – 25th District

JBS/cl

cc: Pennsylvania Turnpike Commissioners
Joseph G. Brimmeier, CEO