State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
REPRESENTATIVE RAYMOND E. GALLISON JR. *District 69*
Chairman, Committee on Veterans' Affairs
Vice Chair, Committee on Finance

September 12, 2011

The Honorable Lincoln D. Chafee
Governor
222 State House
Providence RI 02903

Dear Governor Chafee:

I am writing to ask for your consideration in replacing the members of the Board of Directors and staff of the Rhode Island Turnpike and Bridge Authority.

I am requesting this drastic action due to the fact that the Turnpike and Bridge Authority is again seeking a toll increase on the Pell Bridge along with the reinstitution of tolls on the Mt. Hope Bridge, without considering any other alternatives.

For the past several years all we have heard from the Turnpike and Bridge Authority is that they need to increase tolls on the Pell Bridge and put back the tolls on the Mt. Hope Bridge. They expend funds to conduct study after study when they already have a preconceived outcome, which is to increase the tolls and toll the Mt. Hope Bridge. We are never presented with any new ideas even though when the EZ Pass system went into operation we were advised that that system would provide necessary revenues to maintain both the Pell and Mt. Hope Bridge.

Previously, upon the recommendation of a consultant study, the Turnpike and Bridge Authority removed the tolls from the Mt. Hope Bridge. However, the document that recommended that action seems to have been forgotten.

In my opinion, raising tolls on the Pell Bridge, and reinstituting tolls on the Mt. Hope Bridge will have a negative impact upon the tourism industry in our State, as well as those existing Rhode Island companies, and those from out of state doing business in Rhode Island.

It is time for a change at the Turnpike and Bridge Authority.

Thank you for your consideration to my request.

Sincerely,

Raymond E. Gallison, Jr.
Representative

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