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PHILIP D. MURPHY
GOVERNOR

January 20, 2025

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
President, The United States of America
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, D.C., 20500

Dear Mr. President:

As you begin your second term as President, I welcome any opportunity to work with you and your Administration where we can find common ground. One area where I believe our priorities align is congestion pricing.

As you know, last spring, New York officials unveiled a congestion tolling scheme with a \$15 price tag to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street. Then, weeks later, they announced an "indefinite pause" on their plan due to its burdens on working- and middle-class families. Unfortunately, the "indefinite pause" lasted only through your election. Then, New York and federal officials moved quickly to un-pause the program and start congestion tolling before your inauguration.

I know we share significant concerns about these developments. During your campaign, you called congestion pricing "a disaster for NYC" and a "massive business killer and tax on New Yorkers, and anyone going into Manhattan" that had been "railroaded ... through" by federal officials. So you promised to "TERMINATE Congestion Pricing in my FIRST WEEK back in Office!!!" And after your election, you were quoted calling New York's latest tolling plan "the worst plan in the history of womankind."

For my part, I am open to congestion pricing in concept. But New York's scheme has never been well-designed or adequately studied, and the lack of proper analysis was exacerbated over the last year as officials repeatedly made significant changes to the program and secretly rushed them through federal approvals.

The resulting congestion pricing plan is a disaster for working- and middle-class New Jersey commuters and residents who need or want to visit lower Manhattan and now need to pay a big fee on top of the bridge or tunnel tolls they already pay. And adding insult to injury, New Jersey communities are not being fully compensated for the additional traffic and attendant pollution that will be re-routed to them because of congestion pricing.

Soon, New Jersey plans to amend its pending lawsuit against the U.S. Department of Transportation and the Federal Highway Administration over congestion pricing to challenge how they handled New York's changes to the program over the last year.

In the meantime, I am attaching a letter on behalf of New Jersey requesting that New York's congestion pricing scheme receive the close look it deserved but did not receive from the federal government last year. I hope that you will ensure that this request receives prompt attention from the relevant officials within your Administration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Phil Murphy", is written in a cursive style.

Philip D. Murphy
Governor