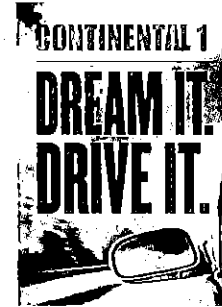




August 10, 2011



The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, New York 12224

Ms. Joan McDonald, Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation .
50 Wolf Road
Albany, New York 12232

Re: Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS)
Route 219 Funding

Dear Governor Cuomo and Commissioner McDonald:

As plant manager of the General Motors Tonawanda Engine plant in Buffalo, NY, I am sending this letter to respectfully request that funding for the Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS), NYSDOT PIN 5101.84, and the completion of Route 219 Sections 6-12, be included in the New York State statewide transportation plan.

General Motors has invested \$2.3 billion over the past decade into the Buffalo facility and currently employs 844 people. These projects are critical to Western New York's most vital long-term economic development project: the completion of Route 219 as a safe and efficient limited access four-lane trade corridor. Until the SEIS is completed, further highway construction between Buffalo and Interstate 86 will continue to be stalled.

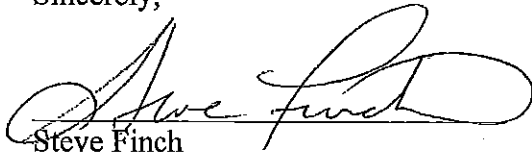
A completed Route 219 will be the sole North-South intermodal connection in our region. This High Priority Trade and Travel Corridor is the New York State portion of Continental 1, a multi-state and bi-national effort. Continental 1 will provide our region with a nationally significant trade corridor connection from Toronto to Miami using 1,300 miles of completed interstate highways. Finishing approximately 20 miles of Route 219 is the essential connection for the New York State portion of the route.

NYSDOT estimates the SEIS cost, the first step to full funding of the Route 219 construction in the Long-Term Capital Transportation Plan, to be \$6,000,000 for a three-year study.

General Motors respectfully requests that the New York State Department of Transportation aggressively pursue these funds through the New York State budget process and from the United States Department of Transportation for this vital economic development project.

Thank you, Governor, and Commissioner, for your leadership in the revitalization of Western New York's economy through the funding of the Route 219 construction and SEIS.

Sincerely,



Steve Finch
Plant Manager
General Motors Tonawanda Engine

cc:

Honorable Sheldon Silver
Assembly Speaker
NYS Assembly

Honorable Dean G. Skelos
Temporary President and Majority Leader
NYS Senate