



August 26, 2010

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Larkin At Exchange130
726 Exchange St., Suite 511
Buffalo, NY 14210

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

I am writing to enlist your support to urge the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to immediately fund the Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS).

We are all well aware of New York State's current fiscal difficulties. However, until the SEIS is completed, further construction of the limited access four-lane highway between Buffalo and Interstate 86 will continue to be stalled. Sections 1 through 4 of this project were completed in 1983; Section 5 will open early this fall. Construction of Sections 6 through 12 cannot resume until the SEIS is completed.

A completed Route 219 will be the sole North-South intermodal connection within two hundred miles of our region. Continental 1, a multi-state effort, is a High Priority Trade and Travel Corridor from Toronto, crossing at the Peace Bridge, through Buffalo, to Miami. Completing Route 219 is the essential connection for this route.

Western New York and Western Pennsylvania have long been one of the most economically distressed parts of the two states. Each is characterized by declining population, negative economic growth, and a diminishing tax base. Completion of the Route 219 construction on Continental 1 will generate economic growth by retaining and expanding existing industries through efficient access to markets and suppliers, and by making the corridor communities more competitive in attracting new industries.

Thank you, Senator, for your request to NYSDOT to immediately fund the Route 219 SEIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, which appears to read 'John J. Sayegh', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

John J. Sayegh
V.P./Dean
Jamestown Community College
Cattaraugus County Campus
260 N. Union St.
Olean, NY 14760