

September 16, 2010

Senator Charles Schumer
130 South Elmwood Avenue
Suite 660
Buffalo, New York 14202

Senator Kirsten E. Gillibrand
Larkin At Exchange
726 Exchange Street, Suite 511
Buffalo, New York 14210

Dear Senators Schumer and Gillibrand:

I request your aggressive support in urging the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to immediately fund the Route 219 Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (SEIS). American Refining Group, Inc. is a small refiner in northwest Pennsylvania, specifically Bradford, PA. We supply gasoline and heating oil to many distributors and end-users in the southern tier of New York and the northern tier of Pennsylvania. In addition, we sell numerous products throughout the region and utilize Rt 219 for almost 90% of our shipments. This road is a critical link between the refinery and its customer base. In Pennsylvania we are actively promoting upgrading of Rt 219 from Interstate 86 south to Interstate 80.

While we are all well aware of New York State's current fiscal difficulties, until the SEIS is completed, further construction of a limited access four-lane highway between Buffalo and Interstate 86 will continue to be stalled. Sections 1-4 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 Rt 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 among the most economically distressed parts of our 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.

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I appreciate your consideration, and thank you, Senators, for your support in requesting NYSDOT to immediately fund the Route 219 SEIS.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Golubock', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Harvey L. Golubock
President and COO

HLG:sls

cc: Mike Glesk