



September 7, 2010

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

Dear Senator 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).

We are all well aware of New York State's current fiscal difficulties. However, until the SEIS is completed, further construction of 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 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 Rt 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, Senators, for your request to NYSDOT to immediately fund the Route 219 SEIS.

Sincerely,

Timothy Finan
President and CEO