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**THE ASSEMBLY
STATE OF NEW YORK
ALBANY**

STEVE HAWLEY
DEPUTY MINORITY WHIP
Assemblyman 139th District
Genesee, Orleans, Monroe, and Niagara Counties

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August 15, 2012

Hon. Andrew Cuomo, Governor
State of New York
State Capitol
2nd Floor
Albany, NY 12224

Dear Governor Cuomo:

I am writing this letter to strongly encourage you to stop the Thruway Authority Board from increasing tolls 45 percent on commercial trucks with three or more axles.

Thruway Authority Chairman Howard Milstein considers the 45 percent hike a "modest increase". A 45 percent spike in tolls is anything but a modest increase in Western New York, this proposal would increase a trip between Buffalo and New York City for applicable trucks to roughly \$127. The \$39 cost increase will be passed onto consumers as companies increase the price of their goods in order to re-coup the increased cost of doing business. Trucks will be forced onto local roads in an attempt to avoid the tolls, causing the need for expensive repairs to local roadways placing, once again, the expense on the backs of local taxpayers. In addition, driving hazards will increase by adding more large trucks to local traffic.

This proposal will eliminate jobs for New Yorkers as trucking companies move out of the state and avoid doing business in New York entirely. As elected officials, it is our responsibility to work to reverse the irresponsible, job-killing taxes and fees that have plagued our state for years. We need to concentrate our efforts to re-open the "New" New York and emphasize we are "Open" for business!

Thank you in advance for your time and consideration. I look forward to working cooperatively with you and your administration to return fiscal integrity to the Empire State again. I know you share my concern!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Hawley".

STEVE HAWLEY
Member of Assembly
139th AD

SMH:esb