



## NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

GARY S. SCHAEER  
ASSEMBLYMAN, 36TH DISTRICT  
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COMMITTEES  
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BUDGET  
MEMBER,  
STATE GOVERNMENT

December 13, 2011

Hon. Christopher Christie  
Governor, State of New Jersey  
P.O. Box 001  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Governor Christie:

On behalf of my constituents in Passaic and Bergen counties, I was pleased to read about the new transparency initiatives by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ), undertaken, no doubt, as a result of your involvement on the issue. Posting the most current total compensation packages for all employees and changing financial auditors are steps that will allow the public to recognize a clearer picture of how toll dollars are being spent.

On December 13<sup>th</sup>, the *Star-Ledger* reported that Chairman David Samson stated the public may have, "misunderstood" that August's toll increases would fund World Trade Center reconstruction. In his August 19<sup>th</sup> statements at the Board Meeting approving the toll increases, Chairman Samson clearly referred to either the rebuilding of, or the investment in, the World Trade Center numerous times.

The approved toll increases were portrayed to the public as a way of meeting the PANYNJ's financial and infrastructure obligations to the economic future of our region. Since those increases were adopted, it has come to light that funds derived from the new tolls would not be used for the stated purposes of rebuilding the World Trade Center.

Given the PANYNJ's apparent lack of transparency on this critical component, I am concerned that all or part of the toll increases could have been unnecessary and the argument for raising fees on commuters and business people may have relied on false or inflated financial data.

While I applaud your and Governor Cuomo's demand for an independent financial audit of the PANYNJ and your Administration's recent pressure to bring more transparency, I believe my constituents demand more be done to control the questionable financial practices at the agency.



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In the past, you have rightfully brought attention to the subject of fiscal mismanagement and abuse by independent authorities. It is my continued hope that you will show the same commitment to the Port Authority and bring resolution to these many areas of concern to my constituents.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gary S. Schaer", is written over a horizontal line.

Gary S. Schaer  
Assemblyman, 36<sup>th</sup> District