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December 18, 2007

Mary E. Peters, Secretary
United States Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Business Community Comment on Tolling Interstate 80 in Pennsylvania

Dear Secretary Peters:

The Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission continues to seek federal approval to add tolls to Interstate 80. The Chamber of Business and Industry of Centre County (CBICC) is asking that you reject this request. The CBICC and its wholly owned subsidiary, the Centre County Industrial Development Corporation (CCIDC), represent more than 1000 organizations that conduct business in and outside of Centre County, PA.

The decision to toll Interstate 80 was made in haste, without public hearings or adequate study. Adding tolls to Interstate 80 will make both of Pennsylvania's major east-west highways toll roads. We are concerned that the result of this action would diminish Pennsylvania's competitiveness in the national and global marketplaces. In Centre County, it will also divert considerable traffic from the interstate highway to our secondary roadways, accelerating wear, increasing local maintenance costs, and compromising safety.

After considerable discussion at a December 11, 2007 meeting, our Board of Directors unanimously voted to oppose tolling of Interstate 80. On behalf of the Centre County business community, we ask that you deny the Turnpike Commission's request.

Thank you in advance for your time and attention.

Very Truly Yours,

John F. Coleman, Jr.
President/CEO

cc:

U.S. Senator Robert Casey
U.S. Senator Arlen Specter
U.S. Representative John Peterson
State Senator Jake Corman
State Senator John Wozniak
State Representative Kerry Benninghoff
State Representative Scott Conklin
State Representative Mike Hanna
Centre County Commissioner Chairman Chris Exarchos