

County of Centre



Board of Commissioners

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December 20, 2007

Honorable Mary E. Peters, Secretary
US Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

RE: Interstate 80 Tolling in Pennsylvania

Dear Secretary Peters,

As the Centre County Board of Commissioners, we would like to take this opportunity to express our concerns and opposition to the joint application by the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission and Pennsylvania Department of Transportation seeking federal approval to toll Interstate 80.

With over 30 miles of limited access highway and three (3) access interchanges, Interstate 80 is a critical artery in our county's transportation system. The movement of goods and services from our industrial and commercial sites, local commuting to jobs and access to the Pennsylvania State University depends upon Interstate 80. Tolling this transportation facility would be devastating to our local economy and make it very difficult to grow existing businesses and encourage new businesses to locate here.

Businesses and their employees depend on Interstate 80 on a daily basis and assessing a toll would create an undue financial hardship. Along with the financial hardship, these businesses and their employees would be forced to utilize local roads such as Routes 64, 144, 220, and 322, some of which are already dangerous due to through traffic pending the opening of Interstate 99.

As members of the Centre County Metropolitan Planning Organization, we have endorsed the construction of the local and high speed access interchanges that would connect Interstate 80 with Interstate 99 as the highest ranking project on our transportation improvement program. Handing over Interstate 80 to the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission by 2010 as outlined in Act 44, may place this transportation project in jeopardy if the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission deems it a low priority and/or doesn't have the funds for construction. These interchanges are critical for the safe and efficient movement of travelers and goods within Central Pennsylvania.

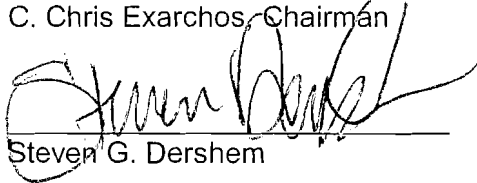
Again, we request that you accept this letter of opposition to the tolling of Interstate 80. Please contact us if you have any questions or require further assistance. We appreciate your attention to this important issue and continued support of our efforts to make Centre County and Pennsylvania an attractive place live, work, and enjoy a good quality of life.

Sincerely,

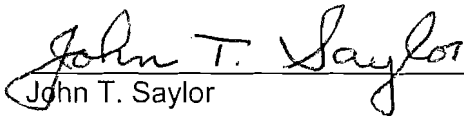
CENTRE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS



C. Chris Exarchos, Chairman



Steven G. Dershem



John T. Saylor

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State Representative Michael K. Hanna
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