

**SENATOR RYAN FAZIO**  
THIRTY SIXTH DISTRICT

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ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE  
PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

**MEMBER**  
FINANCE, REVENUE, & BONDING COMMITTEE  
TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

July 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023

Dear Attorney General Tong,

As you may be aware, on July 21, 2023, the State of New Jersey filed suit against the US Department of Transportation (“USDOT”) and the Federal Highway Administration (“FHWA”), in addition to FHWA Administrator Shailen Bhatt, and FHWA New York Division Administrator Richard Markus. The suit challenges the FHWA’s decision to approve the environmental review phase of New York’s Central Business District Tolling Program. I write today to ask you to ensure that the State of Connecticut, in addition to Connecticut residents and businesses, are protected and have a voice in the proceeding by having the State of Connecticut officially join the lawsuit.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires a federal agency to conduct a comprehensive review and a complete environmental impact statement whenever a proposal will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Both the State of New York and the US Government admit that congestion pricing in Manhattan will result in traffic pattern changes. These changes may lead to changes in the environment. Due to New York City’s proximity to Connecticut, it is in our resident’s best interests to have a full environmental impact study conducted before New York is allowed to proceed.

In addition to the potential for an environmental impact, there will be a significant financial impact placed on the thousand of Connecticut residents who commute by car on a regular basis to Manhattan. Some of those Connecticut residents may now face thousands of dollars in new costs every year just to commute to work. Additionally, congestion tolls will have a negative impact on interstate commerce between Connecticut and New York, and both states should know the full impact before any plan is approved.

I understand the importance of investing in our transportation system, as well as the need to reduce traffic. However, with the full environmental impact of the NYC congestion pricing plan unknown, in addition to the potentially adverse effects on Connecticut commuters and businesses, I believe it is in the state’s best interest to join New Jersey in this lawsuit.

Thank you for your consideration on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ryan Fazio".

Ryan Fazio

36<sup>th</sup> State Senate District