

DONOVAN RICHARDS
COUNCIL MEMBER, 31ST DISTRICT, QUEENS

CHAIR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

COMMITTEES
GENERAL WELFARE
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
LAND USE
PUBLIC HOUSING
RECOVERY AND RESILIENCY

SUB COMMITTEES
ZONING AND FRANCHISES



THE COUNCIL
OF
THE CITY OF NEW YORK

LAURELTON OFFICE
234-26 MERRICK BLVD.
LAURELTON, NY 11422
(718) 527-4356
FAX: (718) 527-4402

ROCKAWAY OFFICE
1931 MOTT AVENUE, SUITE 410
FAR ROCKAWAY, NY 11691
(718) 471-7014
FAX: (718) 471-7391

CITY HALL OFFICE:
250 BROADWAY, SUITE 1731
NEW YORK, NY 10007
(212) 788-7216
FAX: (212) 227-1210

July 7, 2014

The Honorable Andrew M. Cuomo
Governor of New York State
NYS State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

RE: Request for Full Restoration of Clean Water Funding

Dear Governor Cuomo:

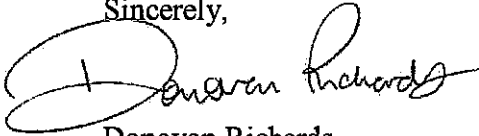
As the Chair of the Committee of Environmental Protection for the New York City Council, I write to voice my concerns over your recent proposal to borrow \$511 million from New York State's Clean Water State Revolving Fund for the reconstruction of the Tappan Zee Bridge. Historically this federally based funding has been used to maintain and finance sewage and water facilities in local municipalities. I am concerned that mortgaging future access to clean water to millions of residents from Rockland to Richmond County is a risk that should not be taken.

From a financial standpoint, the state has not clarified how the bridge will continue to be financed or even how the loan will be repaid. Your administration has not shared information regarding future plans for tolling and other sources of financing for a public works project of this magnitude. Secondly, I would question whether the use of federal funding for this particular project is a misuse of these dollars. After the passage of the Clean Water Act over three decades ago, the establishment of the fund has been an integral part of preserving precious resources not only found in this state but also throughout our nation.

As the state's Thruway Authority's executive board considers voting on this proposal I ask that your administration reconsiders its financing request from the Clean Water Fund. After the extensive damage wrought by storms such as Irene and Sandy, it has become increasingly apparent that our state's infrastructure must be resilient and adaptable to climate change and increasingly inclement weather. This includes maintaining and protecting critical funding for sewers and water mains as important arteries of our great state.

This letter is a formal request to your administration to fully reconsider its position. I look forward to building a partnership with your office and other environmental advocates for the preservation of state of New York. Please feel free to contact me directly on this matter at (646) 823-3727 or my office (212) 788-7216.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Donovan Richards". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Donovan Richards
Committee on Environmental Protection
31st Council District, Queens

Cc: Thomas P. DiNapoli, New York State Comptroller, Office of the State Comptroller
Cc: Robert L. Menga, Budget Director, Public Authorities Control Board
Cc: Ya-Ting Liu, Director, New York City Sustainability Program New York League of Conservation Voters Education Fund