

WESTCHESTER MUNICIPAL OFFICIALS ASSOCIATION

1133 Westchester Ave., Suite N-220 White Plains, NY 10604 • Phone (914) 948-2075 • Fax (914) 470-2972
www.wmoaonline.com

OFFICERS

WILLIAM HANAUER, President
Mayor, Ossining
MARY MARVIN, 1st Vice President
Mayor, Bronxville
THOMAS M. ROACH, 2nd Vice President
Mayor, White Plains
MARY FOSTER, Secretary
Mayor, Peekskill
LEO WIEGMAN, Treasurer
Mayor, Croton-on-Hudson

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

STEPHEN V. ALTIERI
Administrator, Mamaroneck
ROBERTA L. APUZZO
Councilmember, Mount Vernon
JUDITH A. BEVILLE
Town Clerk, Greenburgh
MICHAEL BLAU
Administrator, Tarrytown
BARRY FERTEL
Councilmember, New Rochelle
DREW FIXELL
Mayor, Tarrytown
ALFRED A. GATTA
Manager, Scarsdale
CHUCK LESNICK
City Council President, Yonkers
WARREN L. LUCAS
Supervisor, North Salem
JOAN A. MAYBURY
Supervisor, Mount Pleasant
JOHN PIERPONT
Manager, Pelham Manor
LEE V.A. ROBERTS
Supervisor, Bedford
MICHAEL SABATINO
Councilmember, Yonkers
JOHN SLOAN
Councilmember, Cortlandt
CHARLES B. STROME, III
Manager, New Rochelle

COUNSEL

LESTER D. STEINMAN, Esq.

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

ANNE M. JANIAK

FINANCE ASSISTANT

GENNARO FAIELLA

MEMBERS

ARDSLEY
BEDFORD
BRIARCLIFF MANOR
BRONXVILLE
BUCHANAN
CORTLANDT
CROTON-ON-HUDSON
DOBBS FERRY
EASTCHESTER
ELMSFORD
GREENBURGH
HARRISON
HASTINGS-ON-HUDSON
IRVINGTON-ON-HUDSON
LARCHMONT
LEWISBORO
MAMARONECK
MAMARONECK TOWN
MOUNT KISCO
MOUNT PLEASANT
MOUNT VERNON
NEW CASTLE
NEW ROCHELLE
NORTH CASTLE
NORTH SALEM
OSSINING
OSSINING TOWN
PEEKSKILL
PELHAM
PELHAM MANOR
PELHAM TOWN
PLEASANTVILLE
PORT CHESTER
POUND RIDGE
RYE BROOK
RYE CITY
RYE TOWN
SCARSDALE
SLEEPY HOLLOW
SOMERS
TARRYTOWN
TUCKAHOE
WHITE PLAINS
YONKERS
YORKTOWN

July 11, 2014

Re: EFC Loan to the Tappan Zee Bridge

Dear Members of the Public Authorities Control Board:

As President of the Westchester Municipal Officials Association (WMOA), I write this letter on behalf of our membership that has read with concern the award of a \$511.45 million dollar low interest/no interest loan made by the Environmental Facilities Corp from the Clean Water Revolving Fund to the New York State Thruway Authority for funding certain construction and environmental elements of the New Tappan Zee Bridge project. Our concern is based upon the following:

The purpose of this fund is to, "provide financial assistance to eligible recipients from the New York State Water Pollution Control Revolving Fund, also known as the Clean Water State Revolving Fund (CWSRF), created by Chapter 565 of the Laws of 1989, as amended.

Part 649.2 (55) defines Recipient as, "any municipality, or person, including but not limited to any individual, firm, partnership, association, school district, soil and water conservation district, not-for-profit corporation, or other corporation organized and existing under the laws of the State or any other state which is empowered to develop a project, or any two or more of the foregoing which are acting jointly in connection with a project."

The fund as administered by the EFC with a Board appointed by the Governor was never intended to provide a low interest loan to another branch of State government (NYS Thruway Authority) also under the control of the Governor.

Part 649 also states, "Additional subsidization means forgiveness of principal, a negative interest loan or a grant to be provided in accordance with the Act." With the lender and recipient under the sole control of the Governor, where are the checks and balances to guarantee repayment to the revolving fund? The enormity of the loan itself defies all limitations as stated in the regulations for any municipal applicant.

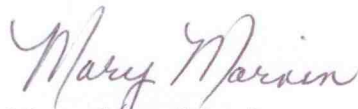


The true intention of the fund was to provide local governments with low interest loans to assist with infrastructure projects to protect our natural water bodies, streams and rivers. Planning and design assistance for developing wastewater treatment plants and furthering their filtering efficiency to eliminate discharge pollutants is the underlying premise as to how the funds were to be used by municipalities. We are hard pressed to understand how removal of the existing Tappan Zee Bridge Span and the development of the shared use path contribute to environmental protection of the Hudson River.

Last it must be recognized that an unintended consequence of the local property tax cap is the inability of local government to undertake infrastructure projects and remain under the cap. A review of the grant funding awards under the Consolidated Funding Application process supports this assertion and a recent report by Patterns for Progress provides the empirical data to support this claim. It is our belief that if the EFC has this level of funding available to remove and partially rebuild a new bridge, then clearly State and/or the EFC should reinstate funding that used to be provided to local jurisdictions for needed infrastructure improvements. This needs to be done to avert what has been a very well documented and publicized crisis in New York State.

We respectfully request that the State re-consider the use of Clean Water Act funding for the New Tappan Zee Bridge project; develop a proper and sustainable funding program to finance the bridge and re-evaluate how local government financing of water quality projects can be accomplished without tripping the tax cap limitation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Marvin".

Mayor Mary Marvin
President WMOA