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Senate of Pennsylvania

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JUDICIARY

June 5, 2020

The Honorable Governor Tom Wolf  
Office of the Governor  
508 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120

Re: Suspend Elimination of Toll Collector Positions

Dear Governor Wolf:

We are deeply disturbed at the stealthy manner in which the Pennsylvania Turnpike Commission voted to eliminate over 700 toll collector jobs this week.

Prior to Tuesday June 2<sup>nd</sup>, all parties understood that under the original agreement, the PTC promised to employ these Pennsylvanians until the exits went completely cashless at the end of 2021. During this timeframe, the remaining toll collectors would be able to apply for existing positions within the Commission, help get placed in appropriate Commonwealth vacancies, or receive a tuition credit to help receive new job training. To our knowledge, none of the above terms of the agreement have been met.

Also prior to June 2<sup>nd</sup>, we believed that we had an open and transparent relationship with the PTC. On May 12, 2020, during a Senate Transportation Committee Hearing regarding Turnpike finances, the opportunity presented itself for the PTC to discuss potential layoffs. Despite questions raised by Senate members on the future of the toll workers, no meaningful discussion on this topic was advanced by any member of the PTC.

We, therefore, believe that it is necessary to conduct an informational hearing to determine the fundamental reasons behind the PTC's failure to abide by the original agreement regarding termination as well as its failure to notify, inform and discuss this matter with the Legislature. We understand the financial difficulties placed upon the Turnpike, however, it is blatantly unconscionable to mislead employees into thinking that their jobs were somewhat secure for the next year and a half, while knowing that these loyal employees really had less than a month to find another job in the midst of a pandemic.

These people have families that depend on them to provide necessities during this extremely difficult time and adding 700 Pennsylvanians to the unemployment rolls will not benefit the Commonwealth.

We respectfully request that this decision to layoff 700 toll collectors on June 18, 2020 be suspended until it can be established with certainty through an informational hearing that there is not some reasonable alternative that allows the PTC to keep its original promise to its faithful employees.

Thank you for your immediate attention to this matter and we await your prompt response.

Sincerely,



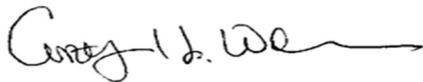
Senator John P. Sabatina, Jr.  
Chairman, Transportation Committee



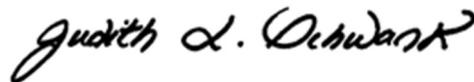
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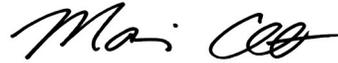
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CC: Mark Compton, CEO Pennsylvania Turnpike  
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Yassmin Gramian, Secretary PennDOT  
William Lieberman, Commissioner  
John Wozniak, Commissioner  
Pasquale Deon, Commissioner