

Think Again
P.O. Box 519
York Harbor, ME 03911

January 30, 2017

By Electronic and First Class Mail

Ms. Marybeth Richardson
Maine Department of Environmental Protection
Southern Maine Regional Office
312 Canco Road
Portland, ME 04103

Re: Maine Turnpike Authority/York Tollbooth Replacement
Natural Resources Protection Act
Site Location of Development Act

Dear Ms. Richardson:

On behalf of the citizens group Think Again we respectfully request leave to intervene as a party in the Department's proposed hearing for the applications cited above.

Think Again is a citizen group comprised of residents of the Town of York and other communities that have been advocating for the Turnpike Authority to reduce the environmental and social impacts of its proposed York Tollbooth replacement with the use of All Electronic Tolling, or "AET." Think Again was active in participating in permitting proceedings back in 2010 when MTA first proposed to relocate the York Tollbooth, and its members, which count more than 100, have continued to raise funds, seek engineering guidance, and inform citizens about the practicality of AET as an alternative to the ORT facility proposed by the Turnpike Authority.

Think Again's members will be adversely impacted by MTA's current proposal, as the relocation of the tollbooth, including the larger footprint of an ORT facility, will adversely impact area residents, due to environmental impacts, air pollution and increased safety concerns. These impacts will be felt by Think Again's members both due to the fact that they live in proximity to the proposed tollbooth, and because they are users of the Maine Turnpike. Further, MTA has asserted that certain options could result in changes to traffic on U.S. Route 1 and other local roads, all of which would impact Think Again's members in a substantive and direct way.

With regard to your statutory criteria, we understand that the Department's hearing will generate a record that will be used in evaluating both MTA's NRPA and Site Location Act applications. We contend that AET is a practical alternative that will allow MTA to meet its project goals without any impacts to regulated resources, and that under the Site Law's standards, will avoid any unreasonably adverse impacts to local residents and the environment.

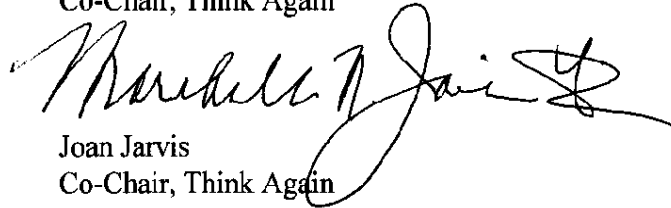
Think Again contends that MTA's proposed ORT facility does not comply with your NRPA and Site Law standards.

Think Again has no objection to its participation being consolidated with that of the Town of York, who we understand also seeks party status. Think Again will offer expert testimony on the engineering issues that are relevant to this proceeding, and has the capacity to participate in this hearing. I will be the spokesperson for Think Again in this matter.

Thank you for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Marshall Jarvis
Co-Chair, Think Again

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Marshall Jarvis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

Joan Jarvis
Co-Chair, Think Again

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Jarvis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.