



# HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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## **Patricia Hymanson**

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May 16, 2017

Marybeth Richardson  
Presiding Officer, Maine DEP  
Southern Maine Regional Office  
312 Canco Rd.  
Portland, ME 04103

Dear Ms. Richardson,

As a State Representative and 34-year resident of York, I have paid attention to York residents' concerns about the choice of replacement for the toll collection on the Maine Turnpike. Talking to people at their homes, attending Maine Turnpike Authority (MTA) Board meetings and Think Again meetings, reading documents related to this hearing, speaking directly with MTA Executive Director Peter Mills, York Town Manager Steve Burns and the Think Again leadership has given me a good understanding of the issues involved.

My constituents do not want a large, expensive, environmentally-impactful, less-safe, and soon-to-be obsolete toll structure built. All Electronic Tolling (AET) will have no environmental impact at the site. Open Road Tolling (ORT) will, and even though there is mitigation planned, the mitigation would not be needed with AET. What is most concerning to me is that MTA appears to be proposing a new tollbooth that will lead to significant revenue shortfalls over time, increasing the need to raise tolls.

An environmental review looking at wildlife impact should also concern human injury and death. The Hampton, NH ORT had 2 deaths and 4 incapacitating accidents since 2007. There would be none with an AET frame.

My constituents ask why all of New Hampshire will likely be choosing AET, even stopping an ORT project on the Spaulding Turnpike because a January, 2015 study had to be updated and AET considered. My constituents are aware that the MTA's own study, done before 2015, recommended AET as long as 75% or so of motorists at the York toll used EZ-Pass. According to MTA Executive Director Peter Mills, we are already there. With NH and MA pushing hard to enroll motorists, it is not hard to predict that a fresh look at numbers would find EZ-Pass subscribers make AET practicable.

Please listen with an open mind to evidence that replacing the York toll plaza with AET is both practicable and the environmental choice. ORT will soon be obsolete and York will be saddled with a large toll plaza that has encumbered residences, our emergency services, our environmentally sensitive land and will needlessly cost the MTA millions of dollars.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Patty Hymanson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Representative Patricia Hymanson  
Maine House District 4