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ALBANY COUNTY LEGISLATURE
MINORITY CONFERENCE

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December 14th, 2023

Honorable Kathy Hochul
Governor of New York State
State Capitol Building
Albany, NY 12224

Governor Hochul:

I write requesting construction of a new Thruway exit in the Town of Coeymans near the Port of Coeymans, Coeymans Industrial Park, and Holcim Ravena Plant. Current State Routes 143 and 144 are currently used for industrial traffic for these facilities, causing significant quality of life issues for residents in Coeymans and Ravena. A new Thruway exit or limited use industrial access point in its place would ease local concerns and allow critical economic growth to continue.

As you may know, the Town of Coeymans has seen progress in its industrial sector in recent decades. Between the continued operations of the Holcim Ravena Plant and the growth of both the Port of Coeymans and Coeymans Industrial Park, significant industrial activity is happening in our Town. These positive developments, however, have had a few negative effects on the lives of Coeymans residents, specifically in the form of truck traffic on State Routes 143 and 144. Because of the location of the Town, large commercial vehicles driving to and from these industrial sites must use Routes 143 and 144 to reach Thruway exits 22 to the north and 21B to the south. The large amount of trucks that take these routes have caused problematic traffic conditions on Main Street (Route 143) in Coeymans and Ravena, noise issues for residents, and congestion on what are otherwise lightly used two-lane country routes.

Your administration has been supportive of the proposed GE Vernova wind nacelle construction project coming to the Port of Coeymans, having provided grant funds to improve connectivity to the site. I am appreciative of your efforts in this respect, and I believe construction of this site amplifies the need for a new Thruway exit. This project will bring many new workers to our town but will, accordingly, further increase traffic on Routes 143 and 144. Concerns raised by residents of the Town at a recent Planning Board public hearing demonstrate the anxiety many residents feel regarding the current situation on these routes.

I understand the addition of a new exit to the Thruway may pose some challenges, especially given the relative proximity of exits 22 and 21B, but I believe a new exit is necessary to improve the lives of Coeymans residents. Such an exit or industrial access point from the Thruway would not just improve the quality of life for residents in Coeymans and Ravena - it would also help local businesses by moving disruptive truck traffic off of Main

Street and assist local industries by providing quicker access to markets and resources. Improving Thruway connectivity in this area would create benefits for the entire town and, consequently, our whole region and State.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zach Collins", with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Zach Collins
Albany County Legislator, District 37

Cc:
Michael G. Arthur, NYSDOT Regional Director
William Misuraca, Mayor, Village of Ravena