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**Congressman Lee M. Zeldin**  
**First Congressional District of New York**

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May 8, 2015

The Honorable Anthony Foxx  
Secretary of Transportation  
U.S. Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.  
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

On behalf of my constituents on Long Island's North Fork, I am contacting you to request the permanent removal of the Cross Sound Enhancement Project from the America's Marine Highway Program. After outreach from a coalition of local officials and community groups, this misguided proposal was officially dropped from the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's Regional Freight Plan on April 23. It is critically important for the Department of Transportation and Maritime Administration to do so as well.

Expressed in my comments to the NYMTC docket on March 18, I have very deep concerns with the Cross Sound Enhancement project. The plan calls for the diversion of 3,000 trucks from I-95 in Connecticut to the most rural area of Long Island. This plan is extremely ill advised and obviously failed to properly assess the North Fork's road system, which cannot accommodate an additional 3,000 trucks per year that would travel 30 miles of rural road between Orient Point, NY and the entrance to I-495.

Some of the laudable goals of the America's Marine Highway program are to reduce congestion, advance safety, protect the environment, and reduce pollution. Any attempt to move 3,000 trucks from I-95 in Connecticut to the North Fork of Long Island along a two lane rural route which also hosts a designated bike route would have an extremely detrimental impact upon all of these important goals.

I support effective planning that keeps our freight economy moving and utilizes our maritime resources to relieve congestion on essential clogged arteries. The Cross Sound Enhancements Project, however, will do absolutely nothing to meet this goal and any further attempts to advance this proposal will be a counter productive use of taxpayer money. The authorizing legislation for the America's Marine Highway Program<sup>1</sup> gives the Secretary of Transportation the power to

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Section 1121); Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Act of 2012 (Section 405)

designate Marine Highway projects in consultation with regional and local planning bodies. Now that the NYMTC has dropped the Cross Sound Enhancement project from its comprehensive plan, I urge you to do the same.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. I look forward to working with you and your agency on this and other critical transportation needs affecting eastern Long Island and the greater New York region.

Sincerely,



Lee Zeldin  
Member of Congress

CC: Paul N. Jaenichen, Sr., Administrator, Maritime Administration

CC: Rep. Bill Shuster, Chairman, House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

CC: Rep. Duncan Hunter, Chairman, House Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation