

PENNSYLVANIA CONFERENCE OF TEAMSTERS

AFFILIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS
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May 17, 2007

House Of Representatives
P.O. Box 202020
Harrisburg, PA 17120-2020

Hon. Representative:

I, on behalf of the Executive Board of the PA Conference of Teamsters and our 95,000 members am writing to you to urge you not to sell or lease the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

This proposal would be disaster. Many states and municipalities are facing a tough fiscal environment but disposing of a valuable public asset is not the answer. Your constituents over the years, as taxpayers, gave up a lot to see this model highway become a reality in Pennsylvania. The sale and or lease of this road would be a slap in the face to those that gave up their homesteads in the early years to see this project through and the many hard working men and women that are employed by the Pennsylvania Turnpike

The Honorable Patrick Bauer, the Indiana House's leader made a perceptive point about Indiana's sale of its toll road to foreign investors when he stated, "*In five maybe 10 years, all that money is gone, and the tolls keep rising and money keeps flowing into foreign coffers.*" (*Foreign Companies Buy U.S. Roads, Bridges, Associated Press, 07/15/06*).

After the money is gone, what's next? Will the state propose selling the state museum, capitol buildings and the Governor's Mansion? No public official has a right to put assets on the open market that belong to the citizens.

There have been numerous other viable options proposed since this issue arose other than the selling or leasing of the PA Turnpike. Please take a hard look at these alternatives and keep our position in mind when contemplating a solution.

Again, the PA Conference of Teamsters is strongly opposed to the sale or lease of the PA Turnpike. Pennsylvania should maintain and protect its valuable infrastructure. You owe it to your constituents and yourself to protect the Commonwealth's infrastructure.

Sincerely yours,



Frank Gillen
President

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