



NEW JERSEY GENERAL ASSEMBLY

VALERIE VAINIERI HUTTLE
DEPUTY SPEAKER
ASSEMBLYWOMAN, 37TH DISTRICT
ONE ENGLE STREET, SUITE 108
ENGLEWOOD, NJ 07631
TEL. (201) 541-1118 • FAX: (201) 541-1071
EMAIL: ASWHUTTLE@NJLEG.ORG

CHAIR,
HOMELAND SECURITY AND STATE PREPAREDNESS
VICE CHAIR,
LABOR
TOURISM, GAMING AND THE ARTS
NJ STATE COUNCIL ON THE ARTS
EX OFFICIO

November 16th, 2018

Chairman Kevin J. O'Toole
The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
4 World Trade Center
150 Greenwich Street
New York, NY 10007

Dear Chairman O'Toole,

Commuting between New Jersey and New York City is never an easy task and almost every day we hear more and more complaints from frustrated commuters. However, yesterday's harrowing experience for commuters was the ultimate cry for help. When I saw the Port Authority's response to Thursday's snowstorm, I was shocked and mystified. It was complete chaos. How does an agency whose vital role to keep the region moving become paralyzed and completely shut down? Closing down the bus terminal, bridges, and tunnels was not only unacceptable, but caused paralysis throughout our local roadways as well. It revealed just how unprepared the Port Authority was to accommodate commuters during rush hour while encountering inclement weather.

As chair of the New Jersey Assembly Homeland Security and State Preparedness Committee, I find what occurred yesterday particularly disturbing. If the Port Authority's main goal is overseeing infrastructure in the region, certainly this was not the case last night and negligible at best. There was little to no communication or announcements posted on what actions commuters were expected to take and where to go. This left many New Jersey residents befuddled and stranded.

I, along with thousands of New Jersey residents, am outraged at the events that transpired yesterday. In demanding answers and insight as to how this happened, I am requesting a special hearing from the Port Authority for commuters to ensure that this never occurs again.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie Vainieri Huttle".

Valerie Vainieri Huttle
Assemblywoman, District 37

cc: Governor Philip D. Murphy, New Jersey
Governor Andrew M. Cuomo, New York
Executive Director Rick Cotton, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Vice-Chairman Jeffrey H. Lynford, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Richard H. Bagger, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Leecia Eve, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Daniel J. Horwitz, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Gary LaBarbera, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Kevin P. McCabe, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner George T. McDonald, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Raymond M. Pocino, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner Rossana Rosado, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey
Commissioner David S. Steiner, The Port Authority of New York & New Jersey