



COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
MASSACHUSETTS SENATE
STATE HOUSE, BOSTON 02133-1053

SENATOR ROBERT A. O'LEARY

CAPE AND ISLAND DISTRICT
STATE HOUSE, ROOM 511B
TEL: (617) 722-1570
FAX: (617) 722-1271
DISTRICT OFFICE: (508) 775-0162
E-MAIL: Robert.O'Leary@state.ma.us

COMMITTEES:

EDUCATION (CHAIR)
STATE ADMINISTRATION & REGULATORY OVERSIGHT (VICE CHAIR)
LABOR & WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT
ENVIRONMENT, NATURAL RESOURCES & AGRICULTURE
COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT & SMALL BUSINESS
MENTAL HEALTH & SUBSTANCE ABUSE

October 7, 2009

Farrell McMillan
696 Virginia Road
Concord, MA 01749

Dear Mr. McMillan:

I would like to thank you for your prompt response regarding the Sagamore Bridge Construction project. Unfortunately your letter did not respond specifically to our concerns.

The previous letter sent to you by the cape delegation specifically requested that an immediate review of the rate of construction on the bridge be performed and made available to the public. We also asked that the Army Corps of Engineers expand the work on the bridge in any way possible so that the project may be completed in a more timely manner. We suggested that it seems possible to double size of the work crew during construction, and did not get a direct response as to whether that is possible.

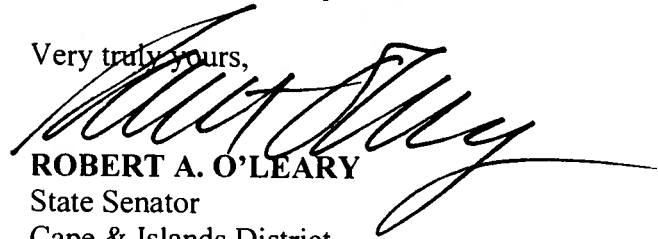
We do appreciate that the work schedule is being expanded from 20 hours per day to 24 hours per day. But the very fact that this expansion is possible at this stage in the project signifies that, at least at the beginning of construction, the project was not going as quickly as possible. We now ask: why was the project not on a 24-hour work schedule to begin with, and what other changes could be made to the daily operations that could make the project go more quickly?

We clearly understand that this and other road projects are essential to ensure the safety of the public and to improve traffic conditions in the long-run. However Cape business owners are losing money through decreased tourist revenue, and Cape residents are experiencing expended delays. As public officials we owe those individuals proof that we are doing everything we can to minimize the already extreme inconvenience. The intent of infusing federal dollars into these types of projects was to spur economic growth, but I am concerned that any economic benefits achieved through the project itself will be largely offset and erased by the harm that has been done to Cape businesses during our important shoulder-season. How will we account for the traffic created by thousands of Fall vacationers attending the many festivals across the Cape in October and November, when the Sagamore bridge is scheduled to be shut down to one lane?

I reiterate the request of the Cape Delegation that the Army Corps conduct an immediate review of the rate of construction on the Sagamore Bridge Project, that the results of that review be made available to the public, and that all possible efficiencies be made so that the project can be completed in the shortest time possible. If there are no other ways to speed up the project, then the Army Corps owes it to Cape residents to prove that you have done all you can. If potential efficiencies remain, find them and implement them as soon as possible. Neither of these two outcomes can occur without a prompt and comprehensive assessment of the project.

I appreciate your response to this request and your action on this important issue.

Very truly yours,



ROBERT A. O'LEARY
State Senator
Cape & Islands District

CC:

Deval Patrick, Governor

James A. Aloisi, Secretary of Transportation