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March 23, 2018

The Honorable Martin Golden
New York State Senate
188 State Street Room 409
Legislative Office Building
Albany, New York 12247

RE: Petition in Support of State Authorization of Design-Build for the BQE

Dear Senator Golden:

I am enclosing a petition that the Brooklyn Heights Association sponsored – signed by 1,005 concerned individuals - urging the State Legislature to authorize Design-Build for the Brooklyn Queens Expressway reconstruction project. As you know, Design-Build not only saves time and considerable taxpayer dollars, but it would also ensure that the project is completed before the NYC Department of Transportation must impose weight restrictions on the highway, thereby necessitating the diversion of 16,000 trucks daily onto local Brooklyn streets in 2026.

This diversion would greatly harm the City and State's economy, since the BQE is an important route from points south to upstate New York and the metropolitan area. But it would also risk the health and safety of every Brooklyn resident who navigates the streets the trucks would use to circumvent the closed portion of the BQE. Since Design Build can fast track the project, failure to pass Design-Build authorization imposes needless environmental and economic consequences and unnecessarily places lives in peril.

On March 6th, the BHA chartered a bus and brought representatives from six Brooklyn neighborhoods as well as other stakeholder organizations to Albany to speak to Senators and Assemblymembers from districts throughout New York City on the urgency to enact this legislation as part of the State Budget. At that time, we had the opportunity to speak with your legislative staff and expressed our appreciation to them for your sponsorship of the Senate authorization bill. We were assured by all those with whom we spoke about the strong rationale for this legislation; however, we remain concerned about the successful outcome of this measure without your support to ensure its passage.

With the approaching deadline for the State Budget, we ask you to work diligently with your colleagues in the Senate, and with Governor Cuomo and Assembly leadership, to accomplish this critical piece of legislation on behalf of communities throughout Brooklyn whose well being critically depend upon the BQE project being completed by Design-Build.

Sincerely yours,

Peter L. Bray

Peter L. Bray
Executive Director