

**A RESOLUTION TO BE SUBMITTED
BY LEGISLATOR HARDWICK**

Re: Calling on the State to Allocate Portion of Grand Island Tolls to Local Towns

WHEREAS, the Grand Island tollbooths collect almost \$20 million a year from residents, which the New York State Thruway Authority says goes entirely to needed bridge repairs; and

WHEREAS, for years, the tollbooths leading to and from Grand Island have caused traffic backups, which lead to longer commutes, and elevated noise levels air pollution for the surrounding communities of Grand Island, Niagara Falls, and the Town of Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, legislation proposed by State Senator Chris Jacobs aims to give ten percent of the tolls collected on the Grand Island bridges to the surrounding communities that are affected by pollution and traffic caused by the toll booths; and

WHEREAS, the proposed legislation would require that the Thruway Authority give \$1 million to the Town of Grand Island and \$500,000 to both the City of Niagara Falls and the Town of Tonawanda; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body finds that the tolls lower the quality of life for surrounding residents by not only creating an additional tax on residents but through increased air pollution from idling cars and increased commute times for all residents using the bridge; and

WHEREAS, this honorable body further finds that an alternative solution for many of the problems associated with the tollbooths would be for the Authority to install a high-speed, cashless tolling system on the bridges.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT

RESOLVED, that this honorable body supports the New York State Senate bill S6743 (2017) and the creation of a community impact fund with a portion of the monies collected at the Grand Island toll barriers for the benefit of the residents of the Town of Grand Island, the City of Niagara Falls, and the Town of Tonawanda; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be sent to the Western New York delegation to the New York State Legislature and any other party deemed necessary and proper.

Fiscal Impact: None for resolution