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ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE

REPUBLICAN CAUCUS

April 24, 2014

Executive Poloncarz,

The Legislature was happy to call a special session today to approve more than $27 million in infrastructure projects that will be completed in 2014. As you know, the County infrastructure is a priority of this Legislature.

This has been one of the worst winters in recent history, and our roads have been decimated. As you are aware, this is a public safety issue for our residents and also has an economic impact on local businesses. We appreciate the commitment made thus far, but we believe Erie County needs to make a greater commitment. Our county fund balance currently sits at almost $90 million. Therefore, we have the money available to fix additional roads and bridges. As a caucus, we understand that everything cannot be fixed in one construction season, but we believe our financial commitment should be greater.

As such, our caucus is planning to introduce a legislative resolution that will request an additional $5 million be used from fund balance to address further infrastructure work this year. According to the Erie County Charter, this request would require an affirmative vote of at least two-thirds of the County Legislature. Our caucus is unified in its support for this, and we ask for your help in getting two additional votes to approve this additional funding. Since every resident in Erie County travels our county roads, we reiterate that safety should be a priority.

As we have discussed in the past, we must address our infrastructure problems together. We are confident that with a united front, many of the road repair issues from last winter will be addressed. We look forward to working together with you on this important resolution.

Very truly yours,

The Erie County Legislature Majority

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Edward A. Rath
Erie County Legislature District 6

Ted B. Morton
Erie County Legislature District 6

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Erie County Legislature District 9

Joseph C. Lorigo - Majority Leader
Erie County Legislature -District 10

John J. Mills - Chairman
Erie County Legislature District 11