

COMMISSIONERS

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County of Forest

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CHIEF CLERK
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RESOLUTION 4 of 2021

A Resolution by the Forest County Commissioners to Oppose the Implementation of Act 88 of 2012 P3 Program Regarding Tolling of Bridges on Pennsylvania Interstates

WHEREAS, On February 18, 2021 PennDOT issued a press release that it would request proposals this spring to TOLL NINE BRIDGES on Pennsylvania interstates, as part of its "Pathways Program"; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly passed Act 89 of 2013 to fund road projects, bridge repairs and public transit thus resulting in the nation's second highest gasoline tax, yet a significant portion of revenues were expended to cover holes in the PA State Police budget and thus presently contributes to PennDOT's current self-proclaimed \$8.1 Billion shortfall; and

WHEREAS, PennDOT's own numbers show that revenue generated from tolling just one bridge at \$1 will pay off its \$100 million construction and maintenance costs in under four years, which will fill the private developer's pocket with millions and secure untold millions for unrelated PennDOT projects; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will disproportionately affect residents and businesses in the Commonwealth and negatively impact commerce across Pennsylvania and contribute to an economic slowdown of many area businesses which rely on shipping; and

WHEREAS, this proposal will force drivers to use secondary state, county, and local roads in order to avoid paying the extra cost and thus contribute to wear-and-tear on said roads, which in turn will drive up maintenance costs for all governments; and

WHEREAS, county residents successfully rallied against instituting tolls on 1-80 in the wake of Act 88 and have expressed the same volume of contempt for this current proposal.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT, The Forest County Commissioners implore the Pennsylvania P3 Board to IMMEDIATELY REVERSE ITS APPROVAL of the "Major Bridge P3 Initiative" which was approved on November 12, 2020.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT, if swift reversal is not forthcoming, the governor and general assembly take the necessary action to PUT AN IMMEDIATE STOP to this grossly unpopular proposal to toll ANY bridge in the Commonwealth.

Resolved this 7th day of April, 2021 by the Forest County Board of Commissioners.

By: _____
Mark S. Kingston, Chairman

Attest:

Lynette Greathouse, Chief Clerk

By: _____
Robert J. Snyder, Jr., Commissioner

By: _____
Basil D. Huffman, Commissioner