

August 1, 2007

Joseph G. Brimmeier
Chief Executive Officer
Pennsylvania Turnpike Authority
PO Box 67676
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17106-7676

Dear Mr. Brimmeier,

On behalf of the more than 7,500 members of OOIDA who reside in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, I found your accusation that Congressmen Peterson and English are being hypocritical to be nothing short of reprehensible. I have little doubt you know very well that your assertions insinuating the Congressmen have “flip-flopped” on the matter of imposing tolls on Interstate 80 are far from the truth.

As you know, the surface transportation reauthorization bill (a.k.a. TEA-21) that passed the U.S. Congress in 1998 was a massive piece of legislation that dealt with a myriad of matters related to federal highway and transit programs. Of all the states in the union, Pennsylvania was the biggest ‘winner’ in this bill. The Commonwealth received a tremendous amount of funding for highway and transit projects, as well as a very generous funding formula that ensured it received more money back from the federal highway trust fund than it put into that fund. A provision that I believe your organization had a hand in inserting into the bill was buried deep within that legislation which sought to allow tolling of existing non-tolled Interstate highways via a so-called pilot program. Congressmen Peterson and English stood up for the people of Pennsylvania back then to stop tolls from being forced onto I-80 and they are standing in opposition again.

I find it shameful that you have chosen to use the pulpit of your appointed position to espouse such falsehoods about gentlemen who between them have served for more than 50 years in elected office in Pennsylvania. While OOIDA has not always agreed with positions taken by Congressmen Peterson and English, we certainly do not question their characters nor their efforts on behalf of their constituents. I suggest you base your future statements related to the imposition of tolls on I-80 on fact and reality, not on rhetoric intended to discredit long-serving, elected representatives of the citizens of Pennsylvania.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Todd Spencer".

Todd Spencer
Executive Vice President