



**For immediate release - September 16, 2014**

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**Statement of NYPIRG, Reinvent Albany and Tri-State Transportation Campaign on EPA's Ruling to Reject Raid of Clean Water Funds to Construct Tappan Zee Bridge**

"We applaud the federal government's decision to reject New York State's ill-conceived attempt to raid Clean Water funds to construct the new Tappan Zee Bridge, and call on Governor Cuomo to move quickly to develop a full financial plan for the construction of this bridge, one that doesn't involve raiding inappropriate pots of money.

In a 13-page letter, clearly outlining their reasoning, the EPA rejected the vast majority of funds sought by New York State Thruway Authority—\$481 million of the \$511 million requested. The primary reasoning was that using these funds to mitigate a major transportation construction project did not comply with the Clean Water Act.

The Cuomo administration and Thruway Authority need to go back to the drawing board and transparently explain how the state will fund this project."

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