



BARBARA LIFTON  
Member of Assembly  
125<sup>th</sup> District

THE ASSEMBLY  
STATE OF NEW YORK  
ALBANY

CHAIR  
Legislative Task Force on Women's Issues

COMMITTEES  
Agriculture  
Economic Development,  
Job Creation, Commerce & Industry  
Election Law  
Environmental Conservation  
Higher Education  
Mental Health  
Legislative Commission on Rural Resources

April 18, 2008

Astrid C. Glynn, Commissioner  
NYS Department of Transportation  
50 Wolf Road  
Albany, New York 12205

Dear Commissioner Glynn:

I was extremely surprised to see a statement by your spokesperson, Skip Carrier, in today's Ithaca Journal (April 18, 2008) that the state DOT has no position on S 6461 (DeFrancisco), which was passed in the Senate last year and which allows the DOT to designate routes for municipal waste haulers, as well as hazardous waste.

Over the past year and a half, your DOT counsel has told both Assembly central staff and my staff that the DOT has many concerns with the DeFrancisco bill and is strongly opposed to it. The stated opposition of your staff, of course, signals that the DOT would urge the Governor to veto this bill if it passed both houses. I explained that to constituents who have asked why I have not introduced the DeFrancisco bill in the Assembly. In fact, Toniika Bennett, an attorney on your staff, was slated to come to Ithaca yesterday to explain why DOT is opposed to that specific bill, but cancelled shortly before the meeting due to illness. I have been working to try to craft a bill that would overcome the objections of your agency and deal with the ever-growing and dangerous problem of hundreds of waste haulers from downstate and out of state driving on our two-lane highways Upstate.

At this point, I have to say, I'm quite confused and my constituents are confused. Some must think I'm not telling them the truth. I need your urgent assistance in clarifying the position of the DOT on this matter. If you are indeed supportive of S6461, please let me know immediately, and I will introduce that bill in the Assembly and push for its immediate passage. If you are not supportive and would urge the Governor to veto such a bill, perhaps you would explain your opposition to the public and offer another remedy to