JOSH GOTTHEIMER
5TH DISTRICT, NEW JERSEY

WASHINGTON OFFICE:
213 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515
(202) 225-4465
FAX: (202) 225-9048

HTTP://GOTTHEIMER.HOUSE.GOV

TWITTER: @REPJOSHG

FACEBOOK: FACEBOOK.COM/REPJOSHG

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515–3005

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October 3rd, 2019

The Honorable Diane Gutierrez-Scaccetti, Commissioner
New Jersey Department of Transportation
David J. Goldberg Transportation Complex
1035 Parkway Avenue
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

Dear Commissioner Gutierrez-Scaccetti:

I am writing on behalf of Mayor Innella of Montague Township, Sussex County, and a number of constituents who are seriously concerned about the safety of the residents of 399 Clove Road. I share their concerns, and to this end, I spoke with local law enforcement, who indicated that a guardrail would help protect lives and property. I urge you to consider all possible measures to protect public safety at 399 Clove Road, including installation of a guardrail.

As you may know, 399 Clove Road is a multi-use dwelling situated at the Y-Intersection of Clove Road and NJ State Route 206. This property has been damaged multiple times over the past twenty years by vehicles missing the turn, either onto Clove Road or continuing onto Route 206. Most recently, on November 12, 2017, when a vehicle missed the turn and launched itself through the front of the house and out the side of the structure.

Mayor Innella reached out to New Jersey Division of Transportation (NJDOT) in December 2018 and asked for a guardrail to be erected at the Y-Intersection. On April 30, 2019 Montague's request for a guardrail was rejected due in part to, "…a fixed object located within the clear zone and whose physical characteristics are such that injuries resulting from an impact with an obstruction would probably be more severe than injuries resulting from an impact with guide rail." I find this explanation concerning as it would seem that the impact with a house could potentially cause injuries more severe than those from the impact to a guardrail.

I am sure you would agree that the safety of the residents of New Jersey is of paramount importance and when a request to protect those residents is presented, it is our responsibility to heed the call and take action. Accordingly, I respectfully request that NJDOT construct a guardrail at the Y-Intersection of Route 206 and Clove Road in Montague to help prevent the unimaginable consequences that may occur if we fail to act swiftly.

GLEN ROCK
65 HARRISTOWN ROAD
SUITE 104
GLEN ROCK, NJ 07452
PHONE (201) 389-1100

HACKENSACK
65 CENTRAL AVENUE
HACKENSACK, NJ 07601
PHONE (201) 389-1100

NEWTON
93 SPRING STREET
SUITE 408
NEWTON, NJ 07860
PHONE (973) 940-1117

RINGWOOD
60 MARGARET KING AVENUE
RINGWOOD, NJ 07456
PHONE (201) 389-1100

VERNON
21 CHURCH STREET
VERNON, NJ 07462
PHONE (201) 389-1100

WASHINGTON BOROUGH
100 BELVEDERE AVENUE
WASHINGTON BOROUGH, NJ 07882
PHONE (201) 389-1100

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Sincerely,

Josh Gottheimer
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

cc: Mayor Richard Innella, Montague Township, NJ
Deputy Mayor Gene Crawford, Montague Township, NJ
Councilmember Fred Merusi, Montague Township, NJ
Councilmember Toni -Lu Martin, Montague Township, NJ
Councilmember George Zitone, Montague Township, NJ
Lt. Avenatti, New Jersey State Police, Augusta, NJ