



NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE

March 3, 2017

Hon. Andrew M. Cuomo
Executive Chamber
State Capitol, Second Floor
Albany, NY 12224

Hon. Matthew J. Driscoll, Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

Hon. John J. Flanagan
Temporary President and Majority Leader
Room 330 Capitol
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Carl E. Heastie
Speaker of the Assembly
Room 932
LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Jeffrey A. Klein
Senate Coalition Leader
Independent Democratic Conference Leader
Room 913 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Andrea Stewart-Cousins
Democratic Conference Leader
Room 907
LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. Brian Kolb
Assembly Minority Conference Leader
Room 933 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Joseph Morelle
Assembly Majority Leader
Room 926 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Hon. Joseph E. Robach, Chair
Senate Transportation Committee
Room 803 LOB
Albany, NY 12247

Hon. David Gantt, Chair
Assembly Transportation Committee
Room 830 LOB
Albany, NY 12248

Dear Governor Cuomo and Legislative Leaders:

As we have for the past four years, we once again appreciate and welcome the opportunity to contact you on behalf of local transportation leaders, municipalities and taxpayers from throughout our respective legislative districts and across New York State, concerning critical funding for our local roads, bridges and culverts.

We first would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our support of the new PAVE-NY and BRIDGE- NY programs enacted as part of the 2016-17 state budget. These initiatives are providing critical funding for additional road paving and bridge work statewide for both the state and local systems.

As we focus on further improving our statewide infrastructure, we would like to take this opportunity to highlight the Consolidated Highway Improvement Program (CHIPS), which makes a great difference for so many communities, economies and motorists throughout New York.

We continue to value your commitment and leadership on this important issue and we ask for your support as we begin our 2017-18 budget negotiations. We believe it is critically important to build on our past successes and renew our obligation to addressing the tremendous, unmet needs and challenges to effectively maintain local roads, bridges and culverts in every region across New York State.

We believe an even stronger commitment in this year's final budget to our locally maintained transportation infrastructure is not only feasible and justified, but also imperative to realizing our shared economic, fiscal and community development goals.

Therefore, we are again proudly joining with our local leaders to urge you to support a multi-year strategy to address local infrastructure needs in order to help provide our citizens, local property taxpayers, tourists and motorists with the kind of local transportation system they rely on and deserve.

At a time when local governments face increasingly difficult fiscal constraints due to the tax cap and long-stagnant state aid to municipalities, we cannot stress enough the importance of CHIPS. Furthermore, CHIPS is fundamentally important to local economic development through the hiring of local contractors and local workers – and, equally important, every additional dollar of state support means a dollar less that our local property taxpayers have to pay. We simply must keep making these investments in economic growth, job creation and property tax relief throughout New York State.

First, we are seeking a \$150-million increase to the CHIPS base aid program, which would bring total state aid for this program to \$588 million annually. This funding level is necessary to help meet the increasing infrastructure needs of our local communities.

Secondly, we propose an additional \$50 million annually to the local portion of the BRIDGE-NY program, beginning in this coming fiscal year. This would allow some of the many local bridge and culvert projects that were applied for but not funded in the first round to move forward more quickly. We also urge that, going forward, a greater portion of the total BRIDGE-NY funding be allocated to culverts.

These funding increases will provide the critical flexibility and funding that localities need to help meet their growing and challenging infrastructure demands.

We not only believe there's a compelling case for New York State to take these proposed steps to address these urgent local transportation and infrastructure shortcomings, we also believe it's simply the right thing to do. Please review these points, which we have highlighted before, as you consider our recommendations:

- Local governments are responsible for maintaining nearly 87 percent of the roads in New York State and one-half of the state's 18,000 bridges;
- Drivers on local roads contribute nearly half of the gas taxes collected in New York State;
- 48 percent of the vehicle miles traveled in New York are on local roads, yet less than 12 percent of the taxes and fees paid to the state by these drivers go back to maintaining local roads;
- Federal transportation aid to New York (FAST Act) is directed primarily to the National Highway System (interstates, principal arterials and expressways), which means less funding getting to the local systems;
- Estimates by the State Comptroller, state Department of Transportation (DOT) and other independent studies have shown a large number of local road mileage deteriorating and many local bridges rated structurally deficient or functionally obsolete;
- 36 percent of bridges are deficient and 38 percent of road pavements are rated fair or poor, and getting worse;
- According to TRIP, a national transportation advocacy group, roads and bridges that are deficient, congested or lack desirable safety features cost New York motorists an additional \$24.9 billion statewide annually — nearly \$2,300 per driver in some areas — due to higher vehicle operating costs, traffic accidents and congestion-related delays;
- Although much has been mentioned about choosing projects that have a statewide economic development impact, we contend that businesses locate in towns, villages and cities and it is equally important to ensure local roads and bridges are maintained to spur economic development and job creation, while helping to control property taxes for individuals and businesses in local communities;
- Every \$1 invested in the CHIPS program is \$1 less the local property taxpayer has to pay. Furthermore, every \$1 invested in the CHIPS program can save from \$6-\$14 in long-term rehabilitation costs. This state assistance benefits the middle class struggling with high local property taxes;
- Safety — how many of our first responders travel over our local roads and bridges to get to an emergency or crisis? How many of our children and grandchildren are placed on school buses every morning and travel over local roads and bridges? It is troubling that we may be risking tragic accidents involving our children, first responders, families, farmers and motorists overall because we are not making the critical and necessary safety improvements to address this growing crisis to fix our local roads and bridges;

- Our nationally- and internationally-recognized agriculture and tourism industries are equally dependent upon a well-maintained and viable local infrastructure. Going from a well-conditioned state road to a deteriorating local road or deficient bridge does not send the right message to our local visitors and farmers;
- Locally administered highway projects will result in business for local contractors and work crews that will provide local employment and economic opportunities;
- The State Comptroller further estimates there will be \$89 billion in unmet local infrastructure needs over the next 20 years with much of this shortfall on the already deteriorating local transportation system; and
- According to an analysis by the NYS Association of Town Superintendents of Highways, the local highway system faces an annual funding gap of \$1.3 billion.

Adding to the alarming urgency of all of the above, we also have to recognize that local governments continue to struggle to address budgetary demands in the face of the state-imposed property tax cap and freeze, rising pension and healthcare costs, unfunded state mandates, and stagnant Aid to Municipalities (AIM). This clearly demonstrates the incredible challenge facing our local municipalities to meet the critical investment level needed to improve local roads, bridges and culverts. A stronger state-local partnership is the only answer.

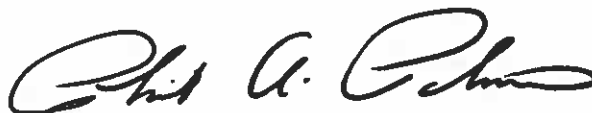
In closing, the commitment and investment levels we are seeking, through the CHIPS program and the BRIDGE-NY program, will build on the foundation we have successfully made in the last several state budgets and further solidify our fundamental belief that "Local Roads Matter!" With the renewed, vigorous state investment we have outlined we will finally move toward the safe and reliable local infrastructure we envision, an infrastructure that will serve as the catalyst for future economic development and job creation throughout our local communities.

As always, we thank you for your leadership and thoughtful consideration of this very important request. We look forward to working with you once again to achieve these critical goals and thereby make the 2017-18 New York State budget truly transformative for our local transportation system.

Sincerely,



Senator Thomas F. O'Mara, SD 58



Assemblyman Philip A. Palmesano, AD 132

Summary of Senate Signees ~ CHIPS/Bridge/Culvert Funding

Senators:

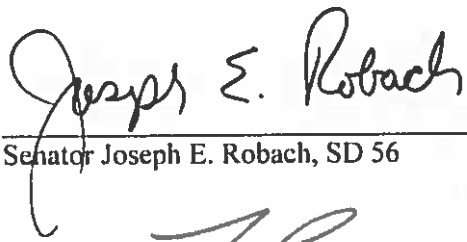
Fred Akshar, 52nd SD
George A. Amedore, Jr., 46th SD
Tony Avella, 11th District
John J. Bonacic, 42nd SD
Phil Boyle, 4th SD
David Carlucci, 38th SD
Leroy Comrie, 14th SD
Thomas D. Croci, 3rd SD
John A. DeFrancisco, 50th SD
Simcha Felder, 17th SD
Rich Funke, 55th SD
Patrick M. Gallivan, 59th SD
Martin J. Golden, 22nd SD
Joseph A. Griffo, 47th SD
Kemp Hannon, 6th SD
Pamela Helming, 54th SD
Chris Jacobs, 60th SD
Todd Kaminsky, 9th SD
Timothy M. Kennedy, 63rd SD
William J. Larkin Jr., 39th SD
George Latimer, 37th SD
Betty Little, 45th SD
Carl L. Marcellino, 5th SD
Kathleen A. Marchione, 43rd SD
Terrence P. Murphy, 40th SD
Thomas F. O'Mara, 58th SD
Robert G. Ortt, 62nd SD
Elaine Phillips, 7th SD
Michael H. Ranzenhofer, 61st SD
Patty Ritchie, 48th SD
Joseph E. Robach, 56th SD
Diane J. Savino, 23rd SD
Sue Serino, 41st SD
James L. Seward, 51st SD
James Tedisco, 49th SD
David J. Valesky, 53rd SD
Catharine Young, 57th SD

Summary of Signatures for CHIPS/Bridge Funding (2017)

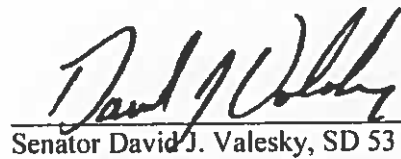
Assemblymembers:

Peter J. Abbate Jr. 49th A.D.
Thomas J. Abinanti 92nd A.D.
Carmen E. Arroyo 84th A.D.
Will Barclay 120th A.D.
Brian Barnwell 30th A.D.
Didi Barrett 106th A.D.
Michael A. Blake 79th A.D.
Kenneth D. Blankenbush 117th A.D.
Karl Brabenec 98th A.D.
Edward Braunstein 98th A.D.
Anthony Brindisi 119th A.D.
Harry Bronson 138th A.D.
David Buchwald 93rd A.D.
Marc W. Butler 118th A.D.
Kevin M. Byrne 94th A.D.
Kevin A. Cahill 103rd A.D.
Ronald Castorina Jr. 62nd A.D.
Marcos Crespo 85th A.D.
Clifford W. Crouch 122nd A.D.
Brian Curran 21st A.D.
Carmen De La Rosa 72nd A.D.
Michael DenDekker 34th A.D.
Erik Martin Dilan 54th A.D.
David J. DiPietro 147th A.D.
Anthony D'Urso 16th A.D.
Steven Englebright 4th A.D.
Joseph A. Errigo 133rd A.D.
Patricia Fahy 109th A.D.
Gary D. Finch 126th A.D.
Michael J. Fitzpatrick 8th A.D.
Christopher Friend 124th A.D.
Sandra R. Galef 95th A.D.
Andrew Garbarino 7th A.D.
Joseph M. Giglio 148th A.D.
Mark Gjonaj 80th A.D.
Andrew Goodell 150th A.D.
Alfred C. Graf 5th A.D.
Aileen M. Gunther 100th A.D.
Stephen Hawley 139th A.D.
Andrew Hevesi 28th A.D.
Pamela J. Hunter 128th A.D.
Ellen C. Jaffee 97th A.D.
Mark Johns 135th A.D.
D. Billy Jones 115th A.D.
Michael P. Kearns 142nd A.D.
Ron Kim 40th A.D.
Brian M. Kolb 131st A.D.
Kieran Lalor 105th A.D.
Charles Lavine 13th A.D.
Peter Lawrence 134th A.D.

Joseph Lentol 50th A.D.
Peter Lopez 102nd A.D.
Donna A. Lupardo 123rd A.D.
Chad Lupinacci 10th A.D.
William Magee 121st A.D.
Nicole Malliotakis 64th A.D.
Shelley Mayer 90th A.D.
John T. McDonald III 108th A.D.
David McDonough 14th A.D.
Thomas McKeivitt 17th A.D.
Steven F. McLaughlin 107th A.D.
Brian D. Miller 101st A.D.
Melissa Miller 20th A.D.
Michael Montesano 15th A.D.
Angelo J. Morinello 145th A.D.
Francisco Moya 39th A.D.
Dean Murray 3rd A.D.
Yuh-Line Niou 65th A.D.
Michael J. Norris 144th A.D.
Robert C. Oaks 130th A.D.
Felix Ortiz 51st A.D.
Steven Otis 91st A.D.
Philip A. Palmesano 132nd A.D.
Anthony H. Palumbo 2nd A.D.
Amy R. Paulin 88th A.D.
Victor Pichardo 86th A.D.
Daniel Quart 73rd A.D.
Edward Ra 19th A.D.
Andrew P. Raia 12th A.D.
Jose Rivera 78th A.D.
Robert Rodriguez 68th A.D.
Nily Rozic 25th A.D.
Sean Ryan 149th A.D.
Angelo Santabarbara 111th A.D.
Robin L. Schimminger 140th A.D.
Rebecca A. Seawright 76th A.D.
Luis R. Sepulveda 87th A.D.
Michael A. Simanowitz 27th A.D.
Frank Skartados 104th A.D.
James Skoufis 99th A.D.
Daniel Stec 114th A.D.
Philip Steck 110th A.D.
Albert Stirpe 127th A.D.
Fred W. Thiele Jr. 1st A.D.
Monica P. Wallace 143rd A.D.
Mary Beth Walsh 112th A.D.
Raymond W. Walter 146th A.D.
Jaime R. Williams 59th A.D.
Carrie Woerner 113th A.D.
Kenneth P. Zebrowski A.D.



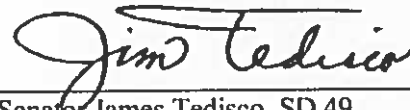
Senator Joseph E. Robach, SD 56



Senator David J. Valesky, SD 53



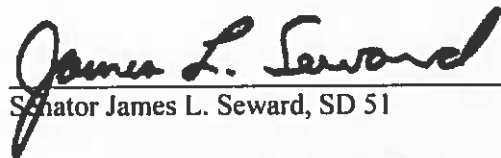
Senator Fred Akshar, SD 52



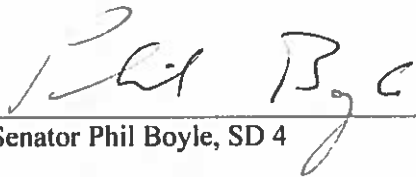
Senator James Tedisco, SD 49



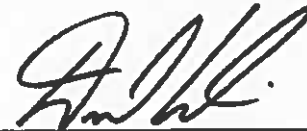
Senator Sue Serino, SD 41



Senator James L. Seward, SD 51




Senator Phil Boyle, SD 4



Senator David Carlucci, SD 38



Senator Patty Ritchie, SD 48



Senator Diane J. Savino, SD 23



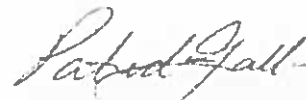
Senator Carl L. Marcellino, SD 5



Senator Kathleen A. Marchione, SD 43



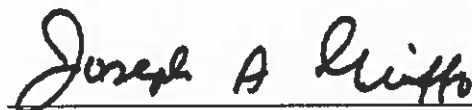
Senator Rich Funke, SD 55



Senator Patrick M. Gallivan, SD 59

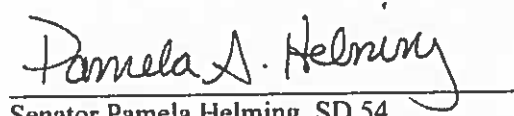



Senator Martin J. Golden, SD 22




Senator Joseph A. Griffo, SD 47


Senator Betty Little, SD 45

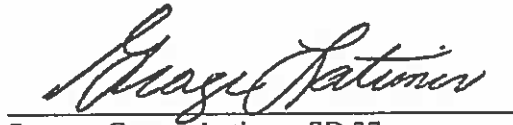

Senator Pamela Helming, SD 54


Senator Chris Jacobs, SD 60


Senator Todd Kaminsky, SD 9


Senator Timothy M. Kennedy, SD 63


Senator William J. Larkin, Jr., SD 39



Senator George Latimer, SD 37



Senator Michael H. Ranzenhofer, SD 61

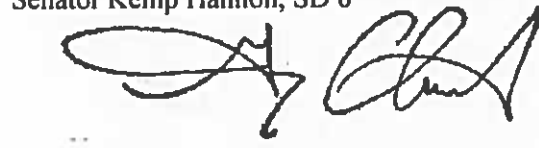

Dr. Terrence P. Murphy, SD 40


Senator Robert G. Ort, SD 62


Senator Elaine Phillips, SD 7

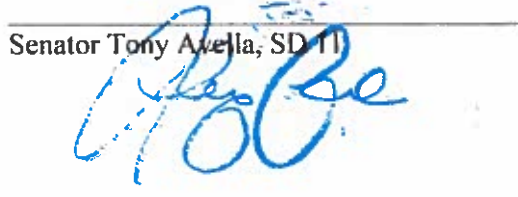

Senator Kemp Hannon, SD 6

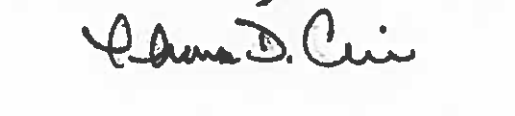

Senator Catherine Young, SD 57


Senator George A. Amedore, Jr., SD 46


Senator Tony Avella, SD 11

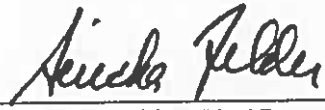

Senator John J. Bonacic, SD 42


Senator Leroy Comrie, SD 14


Senator Thomas D. Croci, SD 3



Senator John A. DeFrancisco, SD 50



Senator Simcha Felder, SD 17

CHIPS/BRIDGE FUNDING LETTER

Will Barclay
Will Barclay, 120th A.D.

Brian M. Kolb
Brian M. Kolb, 131st A.D.

Mark C. Johns
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Robert J. Rodriguez
Robert J. Rodriguez, 182nd A.D.

Anthony D'Urso
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Amy R. Paulin
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Thomas J. Abinanti
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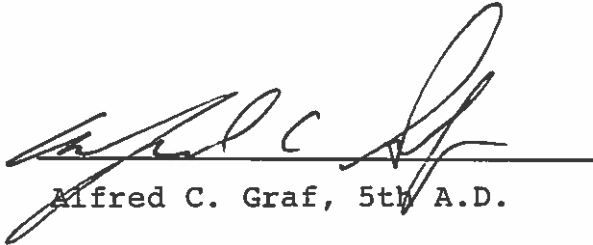
Monica Wallace
Monica Wallace, 143rd A.D.

Shelley Mayer
Shelley Mayer, 90th A.D.

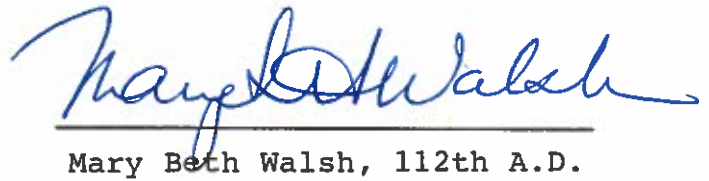
Pamela J. Hunter
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Carmen E. Arroyo
Carmen E. Arroyo, 84th A.D.

CHIPS/BRIDGE FUNDING LETTER



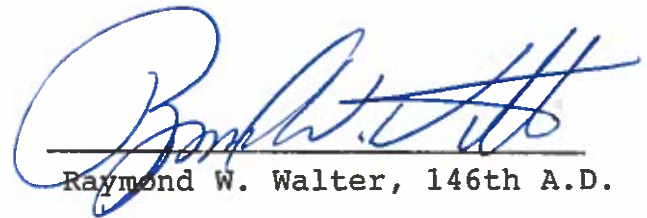
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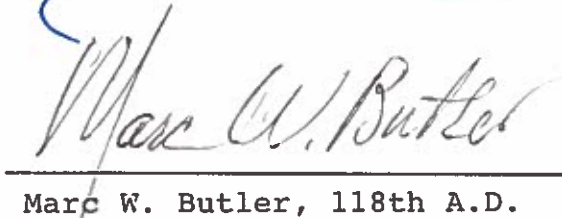
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Ronald Castorina, Jr., 62nd A.D.



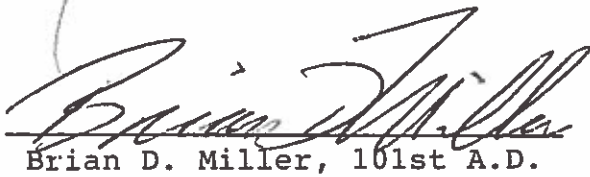
Raymond W. Walter, 146th A.D.



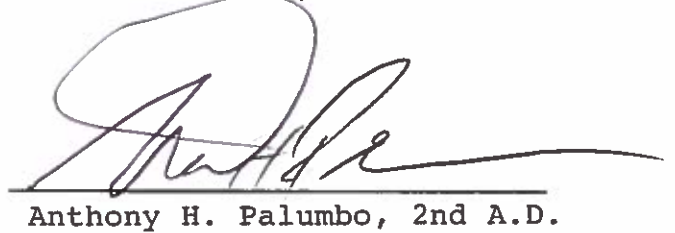
Marc W. Butler, 118th A.D.



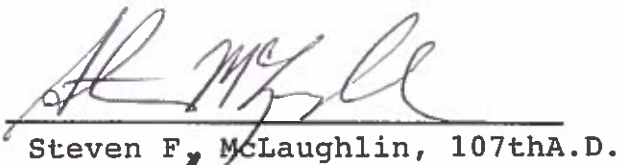
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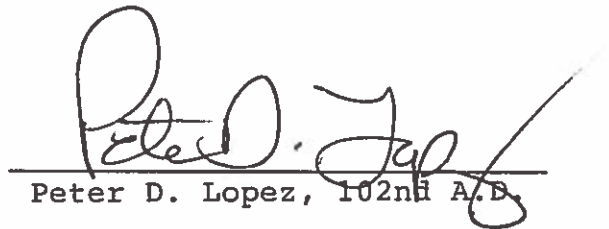
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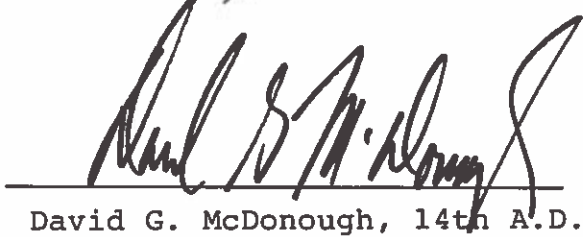
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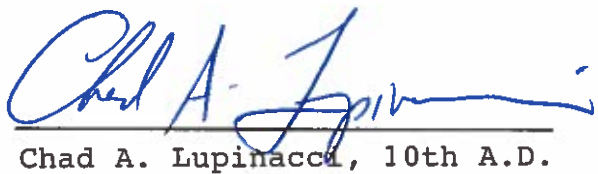
Steven F. McLaughlin, 107th A.D.



Peter D. Lopez, 102nd A.D.




David G. McDonough, 14th A.D.



Chad A. Lupinacchi, 10th A.D.

CHIPS/BRIDGE FUNDING LETTER



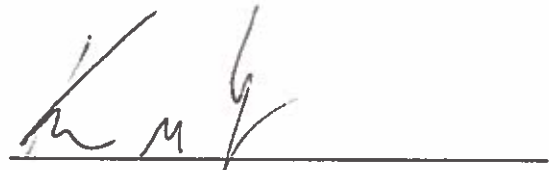
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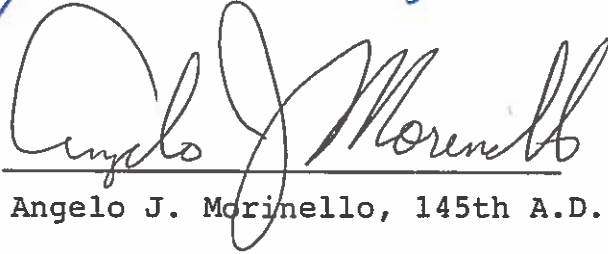
Andrew R. Garbarino, 7th A.D.



Joseph A. Errigo, 133rd A.D.



Kieran M. Lalor, 105th A.D.



Angelo J. Morinello, 145th A.D.



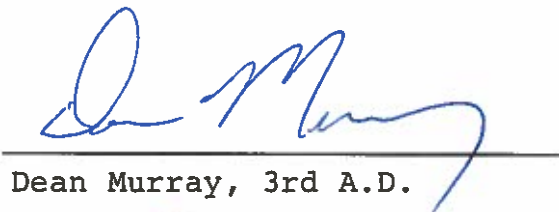
Karl Brabenec, 98th A.D.



Michael A. Montesano, 15th A.D.



Andrew F. Raia, 12th A.D.



Dean Murray, 3rd A.D.



Melissa Miller, 20th A.D.




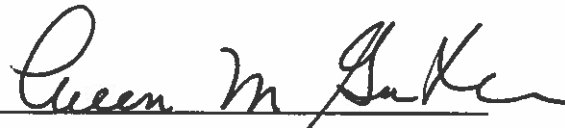
Andrew Goodell, 150th A.D.




Thomas McKeivitt, 17th A.D.

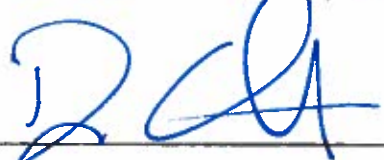
CHIPS/BRIDGE FUNDING LETTER

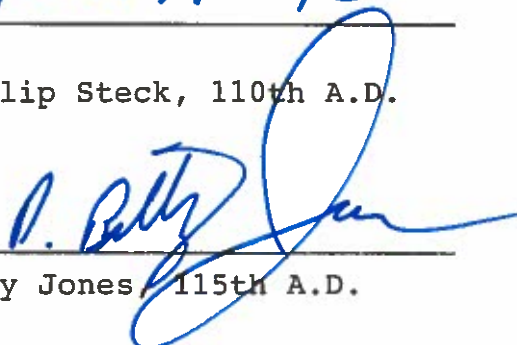

Thiele
Fred W. Thiele, Jr., 1st A.D.



Aileen M. Gunther, 100th A.D.



(Kearns)
Michael P. Kearns, 142nd A.D.


Phillip Steck, 110th A.D.

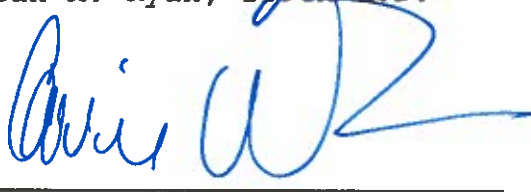

Daniel Quart, 73rd A.D.


Billy Jones, 115th A.D.

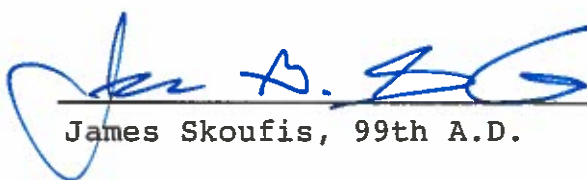

Ron Kim, 40th A.D.


Sean M. Ryan, 149th A.D.


Braunstein
Edward C. Braunstein, 26th A.D.


Woerner
Carrie Woerner, 113th A.D.

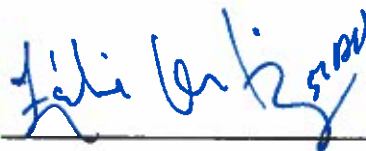

Crespo
Marcos A. Crespo, 85th A.D.


James Skoufis, 99th A.D.


CHIPS/BRIDGE FUNDING LETTER



BUCHWALD
David Buckwald, 93rd A.D.



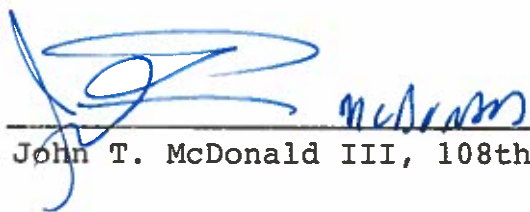
Felix W. Oritz, 51st A.D.



William Magee, 121st A.D.



Andrew D. Hevesi, 28th A.D.



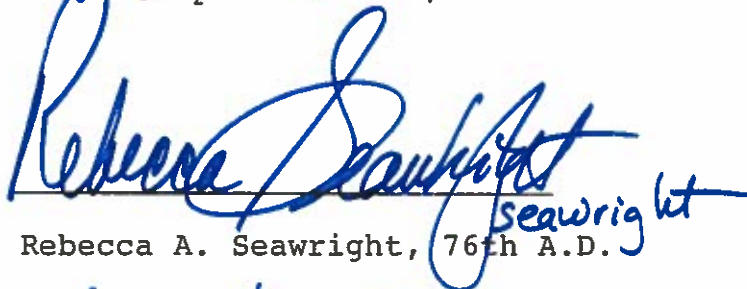
John T. McDonald III, 108th A.D.




Joseph R. Lentol, 50th A.D.



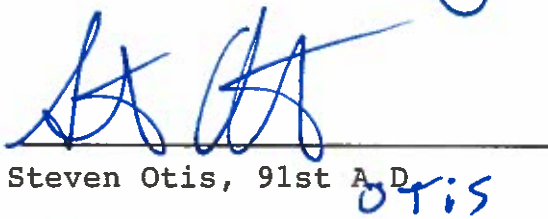
ZEBROWSKI
Kenneth P. Zebrowski, 96th A.D.



seawright
Rebecca A. Seawright, 76th A.D.



Sandra R. Galef, 95th A.D.



OTIS
Steven Otis, 91st A.D.



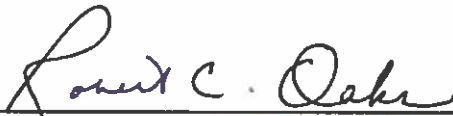
Brian Barnwell, 30th A.D.

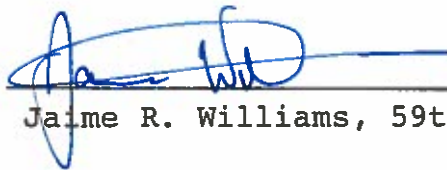


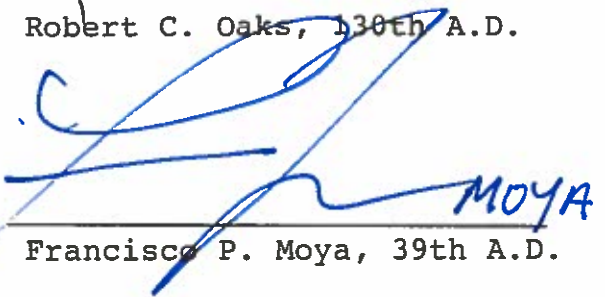
LUPARDO
Donna A. Lupardo, 123rd A.D.

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Clifford W. Crouch, 122nd A.D.



Robert C. Oaks, 130th A.D.


Jaime R. Williams, 59th A.D.



Francisco P. Moya, 39th A.D.

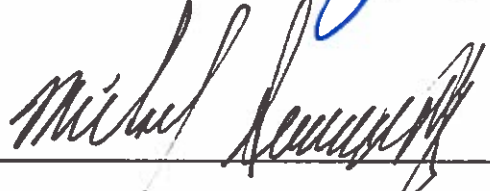

Carmen De La Rosa, ^{De La Rosa}72nd A.D.

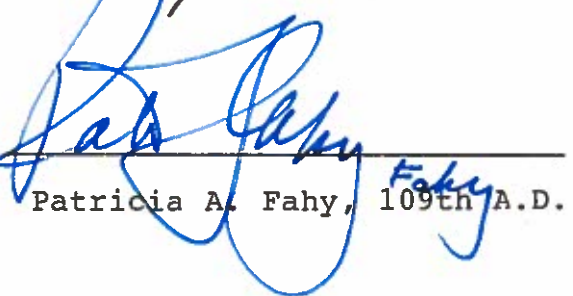

Michael A. Blake, 79th ~~12th~~ A.D.



Luis R. Sepulveda, ^{Sepulveda}87th A.D.


Ellen C. Jaffee, 97th A.D.


Mark Gjonaj, 80th A.D.


Michael A. Simanowitz, 27th A.D.


Patricia A. Fahy, ^{Fahy}109th A.D.


Didi Barrett, 106th A.D.

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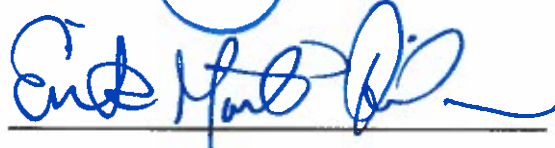
Charles D. Lavine, 13th A.D.



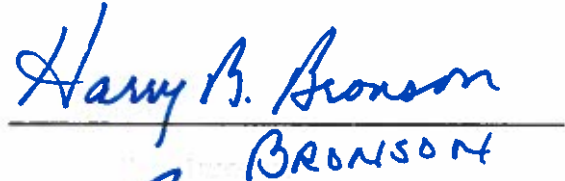
A. SANTABARBARA
Angelo Santabarbara, 11th A.D.



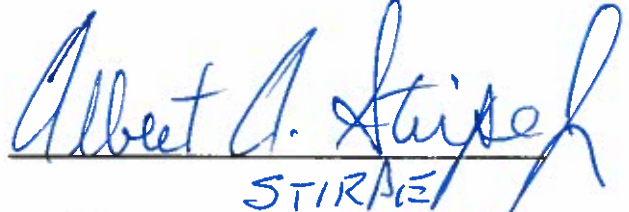
Pichardo
Victor Pichardo, 86th A.D.



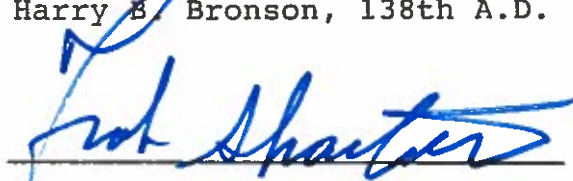
Erik Martin Dilan, 54th A.D.



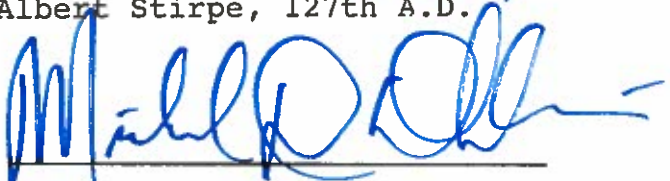
BRONSON
Harry B. Bronson, 138th A.D.



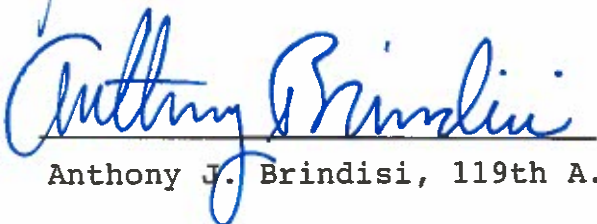
STIRPE
Albert Stirpe, 127th A.D.



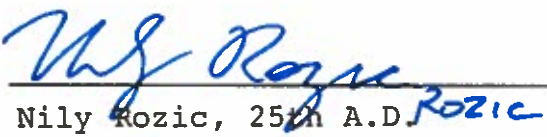
Frank K. Skartadcs, 104th A.D.



Michael G. DenDekker, 34th A.D.



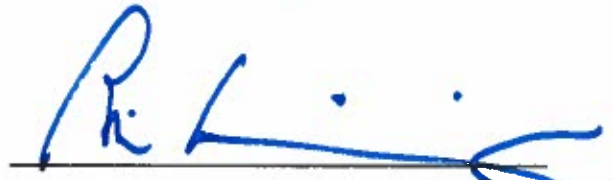
Anthony J. Brindisi, 119th A.D.



Nily Rozic, 25th A.D. ROZIC




Kevin A. Cahill, 103rd A.D.

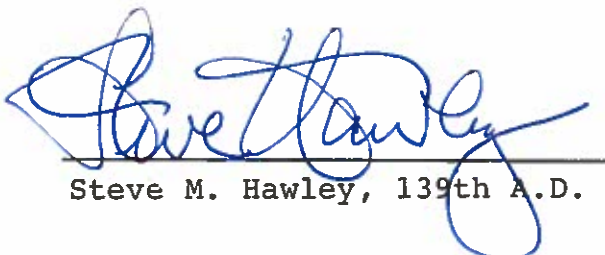


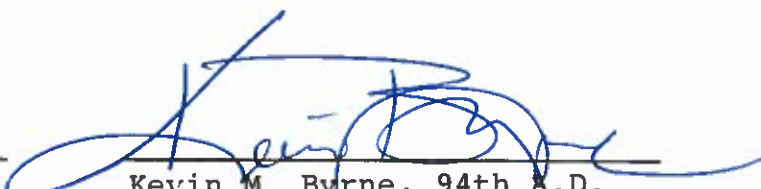
Robin L. Schimminger, 140th A.D.

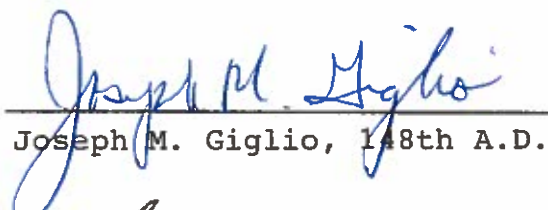
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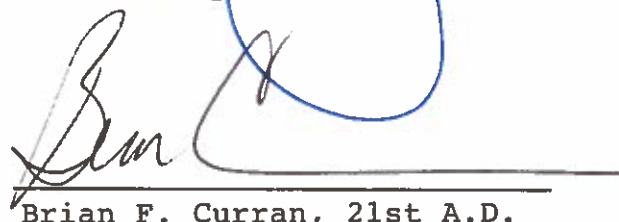

Gary D. Finch, 126th A.D.

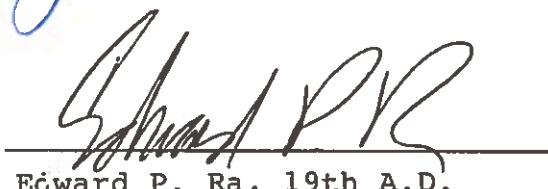

Kenneth D. Blankenbush, 117th A.D.


Steve M. Hawley, 139th A.D.


Kevin M. Byrne, 94th A.D.

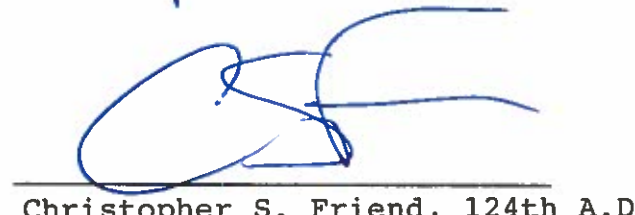

Joseph M. Giglio, 148th A.D.


Brian F. Curran, 21st A.D.

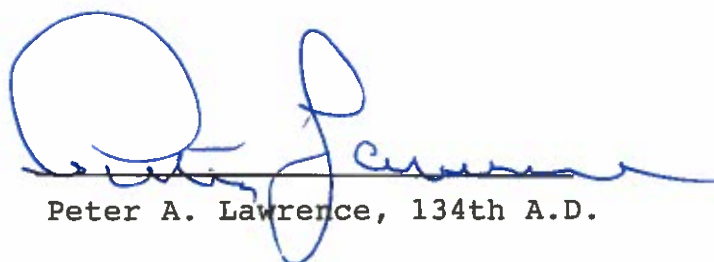

Edward P. Ra, 19th A.D.


Nicole Malliotakis, 64th A.D.

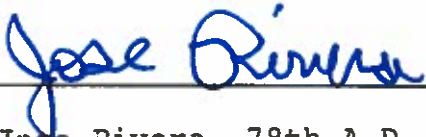

Michael J. Fitzpatrick, 8th A.D.


Christopher S. Friend, 124th A.D.

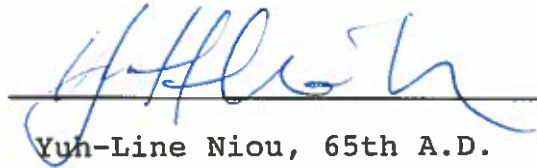

David J. DiPietro, 147th A.D.


Peter A. Lawrence, 134th A.D.

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Jose Rivera, 78th A.D.



Yun-Line Niou, 65th A.D.



Peter J. Abbate, Jr., 49th A.D.
