

THE TOWN OF

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Congressman Brian Higgins
726 Exchange Street, Suite 601
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Dear Congressman Higgins:

You have suggested that New York State's Buffalo train station location selection process was a fraud and in your own words "the fix was in six months ago" before the different options were offered by the State. You strongly supported this same behavior by NY here on the Island so you likely have inside knowledge of the process and its corruption.

You have claimed that significantly inflated costs were used against the Central Terminal option and other false and misleading information was used to justify the likely NYS decision against that option.

Here on Grand Island the State fraudulently offered "options" in July 2016 after having already decided on the Parkway closure in or prior to January 2016. This decision by the state was revealed August 8th 2016 by the Grand Island Supervisor in his article in the Dispatch where he revealed that in January 2016 he committed to support and fight for the State decision to close the Parkway.

NYS in July 2016 fraudulently presented options to Grand Island residents and requested their comments to help with the decision on which option to choose. NYS then used those comments against the residents twisting their comments to imply "overwhelming support" for the state decision to close the Parkway.

The claim of "overwhelming support" was based on resident comments regarding the historical neglect by the state of the Parkway lands and ignored that same August 2016 public comment data showing 73% opposed to closure. The state also ignored the October 6th 2016 public hearing where 81% of the residents in attendance (236 commented) were "strongly" opposed to the Parkway closure and the Grand Island Town government majority that was opposed to closure. New York State's claim of "overwhelming support" is a bold faced lie that twisted resident comments into a weapon against them and their position- a highly unethical action.

NY similarly grossly inflated the costs for Option 4 - the town and area resident's preferred option. The NYS contracted Engineer, Victor O'Brien, admitted the numbers make no sense.

NY has refused to release safety data that they did generate, as per Victor O'Brien, while falsely claiming their decision provided the safest option. The data shows the Parkway closure shifted cars daily onto roads that have seven fold more accidents. Misrepresenting the impact to area resident safety is highly unethical.

To conclude Congressman - please revoke your support of the NYS decision to close the Parkway based on the corruption that was involved - such corruption should never be permitted. Thanks for your consideration of this matter - Mike Madigan Grand Island Town Council

CC: GI Town Board, NYS Senator Jacobs, NYS Assemblyman Morinello <http://www.wben.com/media/audio-channel/train-station-push-final-stage-congressman-brian-higgins>