

106TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2582

To eliminate a limitation with respect to the collection of tolls for use
of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, New York.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 21, 1999

Mr. NADLER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

A BILL

To eliminate a limitation with respect to the collection of
tolls for use of the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, New York.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds that—

5 (1) the neighborhoods of Soho, Tribeca, Green-
6 wich Village, Chinatown, the Lower East Side, and
7 Lower Manhattan in New York County and Bay
8 Ridge, Sunset Park, Boerum Hill, Red Hook, Car-
9 roll Gardens, Cobble Hill, Brooklyn Heights, and
10 downtown Brooklyn in Kings County, New York,

1 have suffered adversely from the significant increase
2 in oversize truck and other commercial vehicular
3 traffic;

4 (2) trucks and commercial vehicles—

5 (A) in order to avoid tolls at other New
6 York and New Jersey crossings, use the
7 Verrazano Narrows Bridge route to enter New
8 York City; and

9 (B) in order to avoid tolls to enter New
10 York City and avoid the high cost of the one
11 way toll on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge, use
12 Canal Street and the Holland Tunnel when
13 heading eastbound out of New York City;

14 (3) the increase in truck traffic has resulted in
15 extremely dangerous conditions for pedestrians in
16 the communities referred to in paragraph (1), in-
17 cluding a high number of fatalities;

18 (4) the resultant increase in oversized commer-
19 cial vehicles' diesel particulate matter frequently ex-
20 ceed Federal clean air standards, diminishing the air
21 quality for residents in such communities;

22 (5) since the use of intelligent transportation
23 systems such as EZ-Pass at the Verrazano Narrows
24 Bridge and all facilities owned by the Triborough
25 Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the Metropolitan

1 Transit Authority has been a great success in reduc-
2 ing congestion, pollution, and waiting time at toll fa-
3 cilities, it would not adversely impact air pollution
4 by reinstituting the collection of tolls in both direc-
5 tions on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge; and

6 (6) the Metropolitan Transit Authority bridges
7 and tunnels suffer a loss in revenue of \$10,000,000
8 annually and over \$100,000,000 over the last 10
9 years since the toll has been one way on the
10 Verrazano Narrows Bridge.

11 **SEC. 2. REPEAL OF LIMITATION.**

12 Section 325 of the Department of Transportation and
13 Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 1996 (109 Stat.
14 456) is repealed.

15 **SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

16 It is the sense of Congress that the Triborough
17 Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the Metropolitan Tran-
18 sit Authority should implement hi-speed EZ-Pass in the
19 collection of tolls on the Verrazano Narrows Bridge to en-
20 sure air quality standards are met and to reduce conges-
21 tion at the Bridge.

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