To the General Assembly:

Pursuant to Article V, Section I, Paragraph 14 of the New Jersey Constitution, I am returning Assembly Bill No. 801 (Second Reprint) with my recommendations for reconsideration.

This bill directs the New Jersey Turnpike Authority ("NJTA") and the South Jersey Transportation Authority ("SJTA") to study potential opportunities for increasing revenue at rest areas and service plazas along the New Jersey Turnpike, the Garden State Parkway, and the Atlantic City Expressway.

This proposal is consistent with my commitment to increasing the efficiencies of the operations of State government. More specifically, it is consistent with the findings of the New Jersey Privatization Task Force, which recommended that agencies examine ways to generate revenue by improving services along the New Jersey Turnpike and Garden State Parkway.

However, and as I have previously explained when conditionally vetoing another version of this proposal, we must also strive to reduce the overall size and cost of government, and not just raise additional revenue. Therefore, I am proposing changes to this bill so that the NJTA and SJTA have the discretion to examine the full range of potential benefits from additional private sector services, and in particular, cost-lowering measures.

Accordingly, I herewith return Assembly Bill No. 801 (Second Reprint) and recommend that it be amended as follows:

Page 2, Section 1, Line 11: After “revenue” insert “and lowering costs”
Page 2, Section 3, Line 33: After “revenue” insert “and lowering costs”

Respectfully,

/s/ Chris Christie
Governor

Attest:

/s/ Thomas P. Scrivo
Chief Counsel to the Governor