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

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March 28, 2025

Francis O'Connor
Chairman
New Jersey Turnpike Authority
PO BOX 5042
Woodbridge, NJ 07095-5042

Dear Chairman O'Connor:

I write to seek clarity on the New Jersey Turnpike Authority's (NJTA) decision to award the contract for the operation of the state's E-ZPass services to TransCore. On September 24, 2024, NJTA awarded the state's E-ZPass Services contract to TransCore from the current operator, Conduent. As a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, it is essential to ensure that the bidding process was conducted with security.

I specifically have questions about TransCore's foreign ownership structure. TransCore is owned by Singapore-based ST Engineering, which, in turn, is ultimately owned and controlled by Temasek Holdings. Temasek is wholly owned by the government of Singapore, with alleged ties to the Chinese Communist Party (CCP).¹ Chinese law requires Chinese companies to comply with directives from the CCP, including orders to turn over data and sensitive information.² Should TransCore ultimately retain the contract, they will have access to the personal information of New Jersey drivers, including, but not limited to names, home addresses, license plate numbers, and contact information. I am concerned that information could fall into the hands of our number one adversary.

In addition, I'm concerned about the potential failure of TransCore to disclose the ownership of a substantial portion of ST Engineering during the bidding process. According to public reporting, nearly thirty percent of ST is owned by undisclosed nominee entities.³

¹<https://www.nj.com/news/2024/10/nj-e-zpass-operator-protests-award-to-competitor-it-says-will-cost-toll-payers-millions.html>

²<https://www.axios.com/2024/03/15/tiktok-ban-security-china-laws>

³<https://jerseyvindicator.org/2025/02/23/backroom-deals-and-billion-dollar-contracts-nj-turnpike-e-zpass-agreement-with-singapore-owned-firm-shrouded-in-secrecy/>

Given these issues, I'm requesting please that the New Jersey Turnpike Authority respond to the following questions within the next thirty days:

1. Given that this contract involves handling sensitive tolling and transportation data, what safeguards are in place to ensure the protection of motorists' personal and financial information?
2. What information can you provide regarding TransCore's alleged connections to foreign entities and current or former ownership structures, including concerns about potential ties to the CCP?

Thank you, and I look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "J. Gottheimer", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Josh Gottheimer
Member of Congress