ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 further requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

SPLIT TOLLING ON THE VERRAZANO-NARROWS BRIDGE

(Mrs. BUSTOS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROSE of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to support the appropriations bill on the floor this week that would implement split tolling on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge.

This legislation is common sense. It is nonpartisan, and it represents a massive win for all New Yorkers. It addresses the unintended consequences of an archaic 30-year-old piece of legislation that singled out Staten Island and South Brooklyn with the only bridge in the country whose technology is controlled by Congress.

Split tolling removes an obsolescent mandate that cars on the Verrazzano-Narrows Bridge only be tolled as they arrive in Staten Island, meaning that eastbound drivers across the bridge move out of toll-free. Thousands of cars each day take advantage of this free ride and cause unnecessary congestion on Staten Island, in Brooklyn, and in Manhattan.

Split tolling cuts the toll in half and collects it in both directions, closes the loophole, and at no cost to commuters in Brooklyn or on Staten Island.

Cutting down on out-of-State toll shopping will also generate revenues for New York to invest in mass transit projects on Staten Island and in South Brooklyn, two places that all levels of government have consistently ignored or ripped off for a generation now.

Finally, my constituents are starting to see a new day after a long commuting nightmare: fewer cars on our streets, better buses, more mass transit options, and credible alternatives to reach the other boroughs.

This is commonsense legislation, and we are going to get it done.

PRO ACT HURTS JOB CREATORS AND THEIR EMPLOYEES

(Mr. RIGGLEMAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RIGGLEMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today as a small business owner