

The Record: Letters, Wednesday, Feb. 5

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 5, 2014, 6:20 AM
THE RECORD

P.A. should return to original purpose

Regarding "The bi-state toll" (Editorials, Feb. 2):

The editorial called for an end to the "tale of two Port Authorities." There is a division of authority where the executive director makes decisions for New York and the deputy executive director makes decisions for New Jersey. It is surely "a house divided against itself."

I agree, but as an attorney who worked for 26 years for this most important agency, I must note that the remedy prescribed in the editorial is based on a false premise. There is no need for congressional action to correct this situation. Congress did not create the Port Authority. It was created by the two states with the consent of Congress.

All interstate compacts require the consent of Congress. Since its creation in 1921, the Port Authority never had this split of governance until recent events. Until recently, the executive director always had full authority for both states. The only action needed is to get back to the original purpose and governance, which has somehow been distorted.

Herbert Ouida

[River Edge, Feb. 2](#)