



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Bill Weber

Senator Bill Weber Advocates for Improved MTA Services in Rockland County

BILL WEBER January 24, 2024

| ISSUE: **ROCKLAND COUNTY, FIX THE MTA, MTA (METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY)**

Albany, NY – In a compelling exchange during the January 24th joint Senate-Assembly Transportation Budget Hearing, New York Senator Bill Weber voiced concerns regarding the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) persistent shortcomings in serving the residents of Rockland County. The senator specifically addressed MTA Chairman and CEO Janno Lieber, emphasizing the stark disparity between the taxes and fees paid by Rockland residents and the quality of services provided, especially in light of the impending Congestion Pricing plan.

Senator Weber underscored the frustration felt by Rockland County residents, highlighting the absence of a direct one-seat ride into New York City. He argued that the imposition of the Congestion Pricing plan exacerbates the challenges middle-class residents face. He further pointed out that despite Rockland County contributing a substantial **\$40 million annually** to the MTA, the services received fall significantly short of this value.

"We've been dealing with inconsistent and unreliable services for far too long, not to mention safety concerns, especially when traveling into the city," Senator Weber expressed to MTA Chairman Lieber during the hearing. Given the impending congestion pricing

implementation, he pressed for information on plans to enhance transportation infrastructure in Rockland County.

In response, MTA Chairman and CEO Janno Lieber acknowledged the need for improvement, stating, "We really want to improve connections from Rockland and west of the Hudson into the Hudson line. We are passionate about that connection and can discuss it further."

Expressing his discontent with the MTA's track record, Rockland County Executive Ed Day took to social media, stating, " Thank you, Bill, for fighting for us. The MTA has been ripping us off for decades, admits it, and does nada to address it but talk."

Undeterred, Senator Weber affirmed his commitment to addressing the concerns of Rockland County residents stating, "I will be meeting with the MTA leadership soon to continue the discussion and advocate for improved services."