

NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE
ALBANY, NEW YORK 12247



April 23, 2021

Peter Gelb, General Manager
Metropolitan Opera
30 Lincoln Center Plaza
New York, NY 10023

Dear Mr. Gelb:

We, the undersigned New York State Senators write in support of the backstage union workers who make the Metropolitan Opera ("The Met") a preeminent cultural institution.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, federal, state, and local governments have worked hard to develop and enact policies – including direct stimulus checks, expanded unemployment insurance, and business assistance programs – that support those suffering due to COVID-19 and associated economic shutdowns. In contrast to these efforts, it is a great disappointment to us that The Met is instead using a global pandemic as a vehicle to bust its unions.

Our understanding is that The Met is offering only take-it-or-leave-it proposals and dangling immediate assistance to workers at the cost of rolling back pay, work rules, and benefits in perpetuity. Instead of putting its employees back to work preparing the new season while negotiations continue, The Met has chosen to lockout employees and outsource work to non-union shops in other states and the United Kingdom, adding to the harm already caused by the pandemic. Such an approach is the definition of bad faith negotiating and of union busting.

It is our view that The Met should instead come to the negotiating table in search of partnership with its unions for the betterment of both parties. We strongly urge The Met to reconsider its union-busting tactics.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Brad Hoylman in black ink.

Brad Hoylman
State Senator
27th District

Handwritten signature of Jessica Ramos in black ink.

Jessica Ramos
State Senator
13th District



Alessandra Biaggi
State Senator
34th District



Jabari Brisport
State Senator
25th District



Leroy Comrie
State Senator
14th District



Liz Krueger
State Senator
28th District



John Mannion
State Senator
50th District



Shelley Meyer
State Senator
37th District



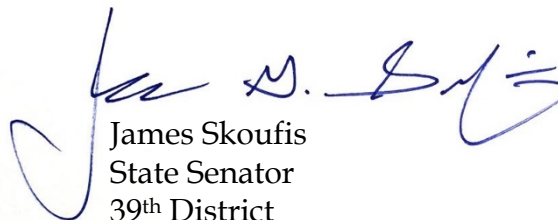
Elijah Reichlin-Melnick
State Senator
38th District



Diane Savino
State Senator
23rd District



Jose M. Serrano
State Senator
29th District



James Skoufis
State Senator
39th District