

**NEW YORK
STATE
SENATE**



SENATOR MONICA R. MARTINEZ
THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT
ASSISTANT MAJORITY LEADER ON
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

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Chair
Domestic Animal Welfare

Committees
Alcoholism and Substance
Abuse
Budget and Revenue
Education
Insurance
Labor
Rules
Veterans, Homeland Security
and Military Affairs

March 14, 2019
Mr. Fernando Ferrer
MTA Board Chairman
2 Broadway
New York, NY 10004

Dear Acting Chairman Fernando Ferrer,

We write today as a group of bipartisan and unified elected officials from various levels of state and local government that represent approximately 279,000 daily commuters on the Long Island Rail Road system, which serves approximately 89 million customers annually.

Recent actions taken by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board, such as the Commuter Rail Fare Increases, will result in increased fares for LIRR commuters that will unreasonably affect the constituents of our districts, and residents throughout all of Long Island. This decision stands in direct contrast to the recent decision by the MTA Board to raise Subway and Bus fares by a significantly lower magnitude in terms of real-cost dollars. Therefore, the planned rate increases will disproportionately increase fares for LIRR commuters, with the overall goal of increasing revenues for the MTA.

Under this plan, LIRR fares are expected to increase by approximately 4% over the next two years, which will result in an increased cost to commuters of approximately \$150-180 per year. On Long Island, we already face an increasingly high cost of living. An increase in LIRR commuter fares, coupled with the controversial Congestion Pricing proposals, will result in further cost of living increases which could not only force our constituents to seek residency elsewhere, but may also result in a decrease in ridership if commuters find the higher rates to be unaffordable. Any decreases in ridership will result in subsequent decreases in revenues collected. Therefore, when put into practice the Commuter Rail Fare Increases may have an adverse effect on total revenues collected.

Furthermore, there is currently no plan in place to utilize revenues raised from these increases for critical infrastructural upgrades to the LIRR system. Revenues will seemingly be used to address the fiscal deficit that the MTA currently faces. Suburban commuters that utilize MTA regulated services, such as the LIRR, are being unduly burdened and will face disproportionate fare increases compared to riders of New York City based systems, such as the Subway and Bus Systems. For these reasons, we are opposed to any fare hikes for commuters utilizing the LIRR system at this time.

We do understand that revenues must be raised to address budget deficits and investments in infrastructural upgrades. We ask that the MTA Board consider an alternative proposal that includes a 0% fare increase for monthly commuters with alternative increases for non-monthly tickets. We suggest that

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the MTA Board delay the Commuter Rail Fare Increases in order to properly consider this alternative proposal, and to allow for adequate public hearings so that our constituents' concerns can be addressed.

We look forward to hearing from your office and starting a dialogue to address our concerns.

Sincerely,

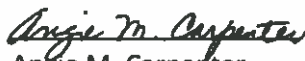


Monica R. Martinez
New York State Senator
3rd Senatorial District

CC: Andrew Albert, MTA Board Member
Norman E. Brown, MTA Board Member
Randolph Glucksman, MTA Board Member
David R. Jones, MTA Board Member
Susan G. Metzger, MTA Board Member
Charles G. Moerder, MTA Board Member
Mitchell H. Pally, MTA Board Member
John Samuelsen, MTA Board Member
Andrew Saul, MTA Board Member
Lawrence Schartz, MTA Board Member
Vincent Tessitore, Jr., MTA Board Member
Polly Trottenberg, MTA Board Member
Veronica Vanterpool, MTA Board Member



John E. Brooks
New York State Senator
8th Senate District



Angie M. Carpenter
Supervisor
Town of Islip



Douglas A. Dahlgard
Mayor
Village of Head of the Harbor

Peter Ward, MTA Board Member
Carl Weisbrod, MTA Board Member
Neal Zuckerman, MTA Board Member
Andy Byford, President, MTA NYC Transit
Daniel DeCrescenzo, Acting President, MTA
Bridges and Tunnels
Phillip Eng, President, MTA Long Island Rail Road
Darryl C. Irick, President, MTA Bus
Catherine Rinaldi, President, MTA Metro North
Railroad
Robert E. Foran, Chief Financial Officer, MTA
Patrick Foye, President, MTA
Helene Fromm, Chief of Staff, MTA



Robert Calarco
Dep. Pres. Officer, Suffolk County Legislature
7th Legislative District



Tom Cilmi
Minority Leader, Suffolk County Legislature
10th Legislative District



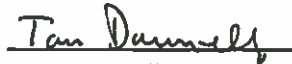
Joe DeStefano
New York State Assemblyman
3rd Assembly District

Senator Monica R. Martinez

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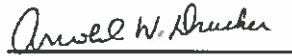
Chumi R. Diamond
Vice-President, City Council
City of Long Beach



Tom Donnelly
Suffolk County Legislator
17th Legislative District



Allan M. Dorman
Mayor
Village of Islandia



Arnold W. Drucker
Nassau County Legislator
16th Legislative District



Steven Englebright
New York State Assemblyman
4th Assembly District



Anthony Eramo
President, City Council
City of Long Beach



Raymond Fell
Mayor
Village of Bellport



Bridget Fleming
Suffolk County Legislator
2nd Legislative District



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New York State Assemblyman
7th Assembly District



James Gaughran
New York State Senator
5th Senate District



Laura A. Gillen
Supervisor
Town of Hempstead



DuWayne Gregory
Presiding Officer, Suffolk County Legislature
15th Legislative District



Judy Griffin
New York State Assemblymember
21st Assembly District



Kara Hahn
Majority Leader, Suffolk County Legislature
5th Legislative District

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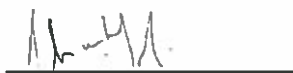
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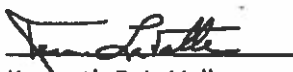
Kimberly Jean-Pierre
New York State Assemblywoman
11th Assembly District



Todd Kaminsky
New York State Senator
9th Senate District



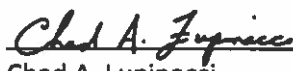
John M. Kennedy, Jr.
Comptroller
Suffolk County



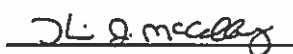
Kenneth P. LaValle
New York State Senator
1st Senate District



William J. Lindsay, III
Suffolk County Legislator
8th Legislative District



Chad A. Lupinacci
Supervisor
Town of Huntington



Kevin J. McCaffrey
Suffolk County Legislator
14th Legislative District



Laura Jens-Smith
Supervisor
Town of Riverhead



Anna M. Kaplan
New York State Senator
7th Senate District



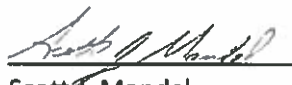
Joshua A. Kafazan
Nassau County Legislator
18th Legislative District



Charles D. Lavine
New York State Assemblymember
13th Assembly District



Michael LiPetri
New York State Assemblyman
9th Assembly District



Scott J. Mandel
City Council Member
City of Long Beach



John K. Mikulin
New York State Assemblyman
17th Assembly District

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Michael A. Montesano

Michael Montesano
New York State Assemblyman
15th Assembly District

Anissa D. Moore

Anissa D. Moore
City Council Member
Long Beach City Council

Debra Mulé

Debra Mulé
Nassau County Legislator
5th Legislative District

Anthony H. Palumbo

Anthony H. Palumbo
New York State Assemblymember
2nd Assembly District

Edward P. Raia

Edward P. Raia
New York State Assemblyman
19th Assembly District

Andrew P. Raia

Andrew P. Raia
New York State Assemblyman
12th Assembly District

Edward P. Romaine

Edward P. Romaine
Supervisor
Town of Brookhaven

Scott A. Russell

Scott A. Russell
Supervisor
Town of Southold

Joseph S. Saladino

Joseph S. Saladino
Supervisor
Town of Oyster Bay

Rich Schaffer

Rich Schaffer
Supervisor
Town of Babylon

Jay Schneiderman

Jay Schneiderman
Supervisor
Town of Southampton

Douglas M. Smith

Doug Smith
Assemblyman
5th Assembly District

Michaëlle C. Solages


Michaëlle C. Solages
Assemblywoman
22nd Assembly District


William R. Spencer


Dr. William R. Spencer
Suffolk County Legislator
18th Legislative District

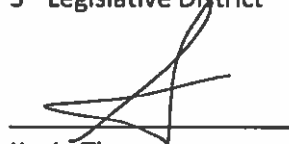
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Steve Stern
Assemblyman
10th Assembly District

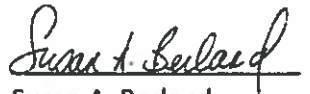

Rudy A. Sunderman
Suffolk County Legislator
3rd Legislative District


Fred W. Thiele, Jr.
New York State Assemblyman
1st Assembly District


Kevin Thomas
New York State Senator
6th Senate District


Peter Van Scoyoc
Supervisor
Town of East Hampton


Edward R. Wehrheim
Supervisor
Town of Smithtown


Susan A. Berland
Suffolk County Legislator
16th Legislative District