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THE SENATE  
STATE OF NEW YORK

**PEDRO ESPADA, JR.**  
SENATOR, 33RD DISTRICT  
MAJORITY LEADER

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GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
JUDICIARY

December 17, 2009

Jay H. Walder  
Chairman and Chief Executive Officer  
Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
347 Madison Avenue  
New York City, New York 10017

Dear Chairman Walder:

We met briefly at your nomination hearing before the Senate Finance Committee a couple months ago. These are challenging times for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, indeed, for us all, but I am confident you will weather them well over the years.

Today, however, I am writing to express my deep opposition to the MTA's decision to increase cuts in service as a means of closing the Authority's budget gap. The MTA provides a vital service to commuters and residents of my district in the Bronx, who have endured more than their fair share of pain in this economy.

Unlike the senior citizens and children who are dependent on MTA services, the MTA has access to vast real property resources which I believe can result in long-term revenue for the Authority through leasing and sales. Before any action is taken that impacts the most vulnerable populations who rely on mass transit, the MTA must make a full accounting of its financial records, including an inventory of all real property holdings.

MTA budget gap needs must be measured against real numbers, and the MTA must prioritize fiscally prudent lease and sale of assets before deciding to leave children, seniors, and hard-working citizens stranded without a safe, reliable and affordable means to get to and from work, school, grocery shopping, and doctor's appointments.

I would like to hear from you as soon as possible regarding the MTA's real property holdings as a solution to the Authority's serious budget concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Pedro Espada, Jr.' in a cursive style.

Pedro Espada, Jr.  
New York State Senate Majority Leader

PE:nr