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MARTIN J. GOLDEN
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November 28, 2012

Joseph Lhota, Chairman
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
347 Madison Avenue, 5th Floor
New York, NY 10017

Dear Chairman Lhota,

With many New Yorkers getting back on their feet following the devastation of Super-Storm Sandy, I am writing to urge you to withdraw any and all proposed fare and toll hikes on Metrocards, express bus fares, and bridge and tunnel tolls.

I write to you today on behalf of my constituents and commuters all of our city. Many, from both in and out of my Senate District, have been writing to me for weeks regarding these proposals, which are unsustainable for many residents on the five boroughs.

Before the storm, many New Yorkers were struggling with un-employment or under-employment throughout our city and state. Now after the storm, these families, along with others, face an additional burden of increased expenses due to major damage to homes. It would be uncontainable to increase tolls at a time when tens of thousands of families are picking up the pieces of their destroyed and damaged homes.

The fact is that New York commuters are frustrated with toll costs and already pay far too much. Your leadership thus far has been stellar, but continued cuts must be examined within the MTA's bloated budgets instead of raising fares as a fiscally responsible approach. I ask you to seriously consider removing any increases from consideration by the MTA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martin J. Golden".

Martin J. Golden
Member of the New York Senate