

THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK

CHAIRMAN
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
DEPUTY MAJORITY WHIP



SENATOR
CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
8TH SENATE DISTRICT

COMMITTEE MEMBER
CIVIL SERVICE & PENSIONS
CODES
COMMERCE, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
& SMALL BUSINESS
CONSUMER PROTECTION
ENERGY & TELECOMMUNICATIONS
FINANCE
HEALTH
JUDICIARY

January 17, 2012

Senator Harry Reid
Senate Majority Leader
522 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Congressman John Boehner
Speaker of the House of Representatives
H-232 The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Majority Leader Reid and Speaker Boehner:

I am once again writing to strongly urge you to fully restore the monthly pre-tax commuter mass transit benefit. With Congress returning to session today, this must be a top priority.

As you are aware, Congress did not extend the monthly pre-tax mass transit benefit prior to the December 31, 2011 deadline. As a result, commuters' benefits were cut nearly in half, falling from \$230 a month in 2011 to \$125 a month for 2012. Hardworking families will now have to pay hundreds of dollars more in commuting costs unless Congress takes action.

This has serious consequences to my constituents, who are among the hundreds of thousands of people that depend on the Long Island Rail Road to commute to New York City. Additionally, since the commuter parking benefit was actually raised to \$240 a month, commuters have less incentive to use mass transit altogether. This will only add traffic to already overcrowded roadways at a time when we should be promoting mass transit to reduce congestion and air pollution.

Additionally, the benefit provided by the internal revenue code reduces the state taxes for New York commuters. However, this state tax benefit is dependent on the federal one, meaning commuters have seen both their federal and state taxes increased.



Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid

Speaker John Boehner

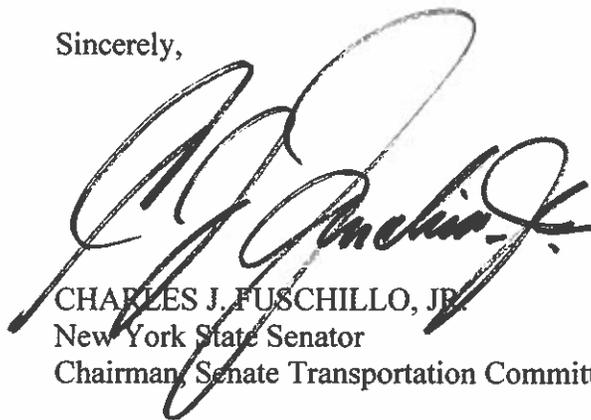
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Residents are overtaxed, overburdened, and feeling the effects of the current economy; they can't afford to pay hundreds of dollars more just to get to work. At a time when we should be trying to lower taxes and promote economic development, that's the last thing we need.

Once again, I strongly urge you to work together to fully restore this important tax benefit retroactive to January 1st.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. J. Fuschillo, Jr.", written in a cursive style.

CHARLES J. FUSCHILLO, JR.
New York State Senator
Chairman, Senate Transportation Committee