



NEW YORK STATE SENATE
ALBANY, NY 12247

ALESSANDRA R. BIAGGI
SENATOR

September 16, 2020

The Honorable Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner
New York State Department of Transportation
50 Wolf Road
Albany, NY 12232

The Honorable Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner
New York City Department of Transportation
55 Water Street
New York, NY 10041

The Honorable Nivardo Lopez, Commissioner
Bronx Department of Transportation
1400 Williamsbridge Road
Bronx, NY 10461

The Honorable Hugh J. Greechan, P.E., Commissioner
Westchester Department of Transportation
148 Martine Avenue
White Plains, New York 10601

Dear Commissioners Dominguez, Trottenberg, Lopez and Greechan:

We are writing to you on behalf of all of our constituents, as well as those who have contacted our office regarding construction signs inscribed “Men Working” surrounding the Henry Hutchinson Parkway and Lincoln Avenue in District 34.

As women continue to work as hard as ever to establish themselves in male dominated fields, it is this nuanced signaling that can inhibit growth and inclusion in the workplace. Verbiage on a construction sign may seem like a small detail, but it speaks to a larger sense of how we view these industries and those who are welcomed there. Gender specific signs also perform as a means to further marginalize those who identify as non-binary and gender non-conforming. We would like to ask that the Department of Transportation phase out the usage of “Men Working” signs and implement gender neutral signs such as “People Working”.

We respectfully request that the Department of Transportation review this request and take action and movements forward to make both the Department and the State of New York a more inclusive space.

Sincerely,

Alessandra Biaggi
New York State Senator, District 34

Andrew Gounardes
New York State Senator, District 22

Brad Hoylman
New York State Senator, District 27

Anna Kaplan
New York State Senator, District 7

Betty Little
New York State Senator, District 45

Julia Salazar
New York State Senator, District 18