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ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION

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INSURANCE
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TRANSPORTATION
VETERANS, HOMELAND SECURITY
AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

**THE SENATE
STATE OF NEW YORK**



PETER B. HARCKHAM
SENATOR, 40TH DISTRICT

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September 12, 2025

Janno Leiber
Chair and CEO
Metropolitan Transportation Authority
2 Broadway, New York, NY 10004.

Re: Proposed MTA Fare and Toll Increases

Dear Chairman Leiber:

I have serious concerns about the MTA's proposed fare and toll increases, which come at a time when New Yorkers are struggling financially and facing continued rising costs on everything, including utilities, food, health care and housing.

As you know, I am a long-time supporter of public transit as a way to address a multitude of problems in regard to high transportation costs, environmental issues, and economic competitiveness. As a result, I have recognized the need to fund our extensive public transit system.

The New York State Legislature authorized the Central Business District Tolling Program, which generates about \$1 billion a year and provides the MTA with \$68 billion to support its capital plan in the 2025 budget. In addition, the MTA collects about \$30 billion in payroll taxes from businesses in the MTA area, many of them in my district. This is real money.

In the meantime, we see stories daily of rampant fare evasion of MTA services, reportedly costing \$1 billion annually, more than twice the amount of money that the fare increase is expected to generate. So it is incomprehensible as to why the MTA is coming back to New Yorkers for even more money.

Governor Hochul has presented an ambitious affordability agenda to save New Yorkers money on necessities ranging from food to childcare. Regularly, there is an announcement from the Governor's office about "Money In Your Pockets." Yet the MTA seeks to dip into the pockets of hardworking commuters while leaving many millions on the table in uncollected fares from scofflaws. The MTA should heed the Governor's call and let our residents keep some of their hard-earned money.

It is absurd to ask New Yorkers to pay an increase in the payroll mobility tax and higher fares simultaneously, particularly at a time when so many families are struggling with the already high cost of living. The proposal to increase tolls and fares is unacceptable and must be reconsidered.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter B. Harckham". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Peter" and last name "Harckham" clearly distinguishable.

Peter B. Harckham
New York State Senator, 40th Senate District